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# QUEEN VICTORIA:

HER LIFE AND JUBILEE.



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1845

THE RURAL FAMILY IN WOODS FOREST

Engraved L. A. Krause

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OUR SOVEREIGN LADY  
QUEEN VICTORIA:  
HER LIFE AND JUBILEE.

BY

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"THE WAR IN EGYPT AND THE SOUDAN," ETC.

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# QUEEN VICTORIA:

## HER LIFE AND JUBILEE.

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### CHAPTER VI.

Balmoral. Excursions in the Highlands. Royal Domestic Life. Visits to Liverpool and Manchester. Home-leaving of the Prince of Wales. Education of the Royal Children. The Queen's Views of Instruction. Religious Liberty. Ecclesiastical Titles. Prince Albert on the Church. Marriage of the Princess Royal. Indian Mutiny. Visit to Germany. The Cloud of Sorrow. Death of the Duchess of Kent. Death of Prince Albert.

“**E**VERY year my heart becomes more fixed in this dear paradise, and so much more so now, that *all* has become my dear Albert's own creation, own work, own building, own laying out, as at *Osborne*; and his great taste and the impress of his dear hand have been stamped everywhere.” These were the words written in the Queen's journal at Balmoral on the 13th of October, 1856, when the new building, of which the foundation-stone had been laid on the 28th of September, 1853, had been entirely completed, and the old house, the quaint, picturesque, little Scottish castle and its offices, had disappeared.

Many interesting associations had gathered round the old building with its nice entrance hall, its billiard-room next to the dining-room, its large sitting-room—next to the bed-room and little dressing-room,—approached by a good broad staircase, the three rooms, down a few steps, for the children and the governess, and the rooms of the ladies on the lower and the

gentlemen on the upper floors. The Queen may well have felt some touch of regret when she wrote on her arrival on the 30th of August, 1856:—"On arriving at Balmoral at seven o'clock in the evening, we found the tower finished as well as the offices, and the poor old house gone."

The "Leaves" from the Queen's *Journal of our Life in the Highlands* give a succession of brief picturesque descriptions of the excursions made from the old house amidst the wild, but not desolate scenery of the surrounding country; and are the more interesting because of the evident pleasure taken by her Majesty in the simple primitive manner in which the royal family lived, and of the personal interest expressed in the well-being of the servants, keepers, and cottagers in the village. Among these people her Majesty and the Princess Royal as well as the younger children went with familiar grace and kindly help and encouragement. There was good sport for Prince Albert, for in those sequestered woods the deer came quite close to the house, and during expeditions to Loch-na-gar and the Balloch Buie the Queen was able to participate in the excitement of deer-stalking, when the Prince went off now and then on the report of game having been found at a little distance, and came back after having shot a stag or some grouse.

The healthful exercise of climbing the hills, riding on mountain ponies, and walking amidst the pure, cold, dry air was a grand restorative; and as it had always been the practice of the royal household to live plainly, the simple luncheon that was carried on these occasions, or the tea or dinner partaken of at some outlying "bothie," was amply sufficient for enjoyment. There are few more agreeable pictures in the Queen's journal than the description of her Majesty's visit with the Prince to their "bothie" at Alt-na-Giuthasach, where a wooden addition had

been made to the two huts, so that there were a little dining-room, sitting-room, bed-room, and dressing-room *en suite*, with an extra little room for the maid of honour, Miss Caroline Dawson (afterwards the Hon. Mrs. Parnell), and one for her maid, the other hut being occupied by the servants. The evident delight of the Queen in the wild, severe Highland scenery, and specially in a fishing excursion in the big boat on the Dhu Loch, the return to a late dinner, the game with Caroline Dawson at whist "with dummy," and the walk at night round the garden amidst silence and solitude only interrupted by the wavings of the fir-trees, is very pleasant. This retreat and the "Shiel" of the Glassalt, where there was a room commanding a lovely view, were favourite resorts of the Queen, and thither some of her guests accompanied her on subsequent visits, the accounts of which in her Majesty's journal so abound with evidences of quick observation, not only of scenery but of people and events, that the reader naturally regrets their brevity.

One of the notes refers to the gathering at the castle of Braemar for the Highland sports, to which the Queen and the Prince with their children and all the royal party, except Lady Douro, went in September, 1850. This was after the stay of her Majesty at Holyrood Palace, where there was a state dinner, at which the Buccleuchs, the Roxburghs, the Mortons, Lord Rosebery, Principal Lee, the Belhavens, and the Lord Justice General were present, and everybody was so pleased at the Queen living at her old palace. It may have been (as Sir Theodore Martin surmises) in remembrance of this renewal of royal associations and of talking about its former history that Lord Belhaven bequeathed to her Majesty an old cabinet brought by Mary Queen of Scots from France and given by her to the Regent Lord Mar, from whom it came into possession of the

Belhaven family. This cabinet contained a long bright golden tress of hair from the head of the unhappy queen and a purse worked by her own hand, both of which remain in their receptacle at Windsor Castle. At Braemar there were Ernest Leiningen, the nephew of the Queen and Prince Albert, his father Prince Charles, and the Duchess of Kent, who was then in Scotland for the first time, so that it was, in a sense, the inauguration of those subsequent family meetings which helped to endear Balmoral; but not less attractive was the walk on the following day "with Charles, the boys, and Vicky to the river side above the bridge, where all our tenants were assembled with poles and spears or rather 'leisters' for catching salmon." It was a picturesque and a somewhat exciting scene with about a hundred kilted men wading in the rapid stream, and the Queen got a fright as she saw two of the men suddenly sink in a deep pool into which they foolishly ventured. There was a cry for help and a general rush towards the spot, Prince Albert being among the runners. Her Majesty was in an agony of terror for the moment, and clutched Lord Carlisle's arm; but Dr. Robertson, the manager of the royal property, who was highly esteemed by the Queen and the Prince, was as expert a swimmer as the Prince himself, and lost no time in striking for the pool and fishing out the man who needed help. All was safely over directly, but as the Queen says, "it was a horrid moment."

In the evening after luncheon the Duchess of Gordon called to see her Majesty, and Captain Forbes (who had asked permission to do so) marched through the grounds with his men, the pipers going in front. They stopped and gave three times three cheers, throwing up their bonnets, and then marched off, the pipes still playing and the men shouting till the sounds were lost in the distance.



Her Majesty heard afterwards that Captain Forbes's men had come to the opposite bank of the river while the sport was going on, and being greeted by the royal keepers and gillies said they would come over, on which their friends went across and carried them over on their backs, the head keeper, Macdonald, at their head carrying Captain Forbes. "This," the Queen writes, "was very courteous and worthy of chivalrous times." Prince Albert in writing of the same incident to the Dowager Duchess of Coburg, says: "Our people in the Highlands are altogether primitive, true-hearted, and without guile. . . . Yesterday the Forbeses of Strathdon passed through here. When they came to the Dee our people (of Strath Dee) offered to carry them across the river, and did so, whereupon they drank to the health of Victoria and the inmates of Balmoral in whisky (schnapps); but as there was no cup to be had, their chief, Captain Forbes, pulled off his shoe, and he and his fifty men drank out of it."

There were pleasant gaieties too—for we read of a torch-light ball at Corremulzie on the evening of September 10th, 1852, where on an open boarded space about a hundred feet long and sixty wide, surrounded by Highlanders bearing lighted torches, the guests of Mr. and Lady Agnes Duff (afterwards Earl and Countess of Fife) danced alternately with the Highlanders, who performed reels and sword-dances, the pipers playing and cheering, on the arrival of the royal guests, who saw it all from a *haut pas* over which there was a canopy, and only took their leave at half-past nine to drive home to Balmoral—fourteen miles.

On the 11th of October a cairn was built on the top of Craig Gowan to commemorate the taking possession of the property at Balmoral. All the visitors, as well as the servants

and tenants with their wives and children and old relations were present, and the Queen seems to have known them by name, particularly the children, of whom she speaks very tenderly. Her Majesty laid the first stone and Prince Albert the next, followed by the royal children according to their ages; then each lady and gentleman placed one, and then everybody else came forward at once to add to the cairn. After this there was much dancing of reels on a flat stone opposite the cairn, the old people as well as the children of the tenants joining in the merriment. The Queen says, "Many of the children, Mary Symons and Lizzie Stewart especially, danced so nicely, the latter with her hair hanging all down. Poor dear old 'Monk,' Sir Robert Gordon's faithful old dog, was sitting there amongst us all. At last when the cairn, which is, I think, seven or eight feet high, was nearly completed, Albert climbed up to the top of it and placed the last stone; after which three cheers were given. . . . May God bless this place, and allow us yet to see it and enjoy it many a long year!"

The next day the Queen returned to London, and the foundation-stone of the new house was laid on the 28th of September in the following year with some ceremony, a bottle containing coins and a parchment signed by the Queen, Prince Albert, the children, the Duchess of Kent, and some of the suite being placed in a cavity of the stone. As the royal family with the suite stood near the stone, and the workmen and all the household servants formed a semicircle at a little distance, the Rev. Mr. Anderson, then the minister of Crathie church, prayed for a blessing on the work, and her Majesty laid the stone and poured out the oil and wine upon a cornucopia which had been placed upon it. The pipers struck up a skirl, the people cheered as the royal party retired, and the evening



closed with a dinner and a ball for the workmen, tenants, and domestics.

The Queen and the Prince with their suite had gone to Balmoral from Kingstown, for on the 27th of August they had paid their second visit to Ireland. An Art and Industrial Exhibition, the building for which had been erected at the sole expense of Mr. Dargan, had been opened in Dublin in July, and her Majesty would have been present at the inauguration but for the attack of measles, from which all the royal family had suffered. The royal visitors with the court went by railway to Holyhead, where they were detained by a violent storm until the 29th; but this gave the Prince an opportunity of inspecting the great works which were in progress for converting the port into a harbour of refuge, and he also visited the Stack Lighthouse with some of his brethren of the Trinity House, who were on their tour of inspection.

The reception of the royal party at Kingstown harbour on the morning of the 29th was marked by unbounded enthusiasm, and their drive through the streets of Dublin was accompanied by manifestations as loyal as those that had greeted them on their first visit. At night the city was illuminated, and next morning her Majesty and Prince Albert with their two eldest sons paid a state visit to the exhibition, and the Queen received an address from the exhibitors thanking her for her presence and support, and for her contributions to the articles exhibited. The Queen in reply expressed her satisfaction that so worthy an enterprise had been carried out in a spirit of energy and self-reliance, with no pecuniary aid but that derived from the patriotic munificence of one of her subjects. Mr. Dargan was present and "kissed hands" amidst the cheering of the crowded assembly, and in the afternoon

the royal visitors drove to his residence at Mount Anville, and though the rain fell in torrents were able to see the beautiful grounds, and stayed to converse with the host and hostess. The manner of Mr. Dargan was described by her Majesty as "touchingly modest and simple," and she wrote in her journal, "I would have made him a baronet, but he was anxious that it should not be done."

Each day the royal party visited the exhibition and carefully examined the examples of special Irish industries—poplins, lace, and pottery; and here for the first time saw the new process of hatching salmon, in which Prince Albert was greatly interested. On the 3d of September, much to her regret, her Majesty departed, after a pleasant, gay, and interesting visit. No soldiers were needed to line the streets, crowded by a loyal people, amidst whom the royal carriages moved slowly to Kingstown, where thousands had assembled, and by their hearty cheers manifested the delight which the visit had afforded them. It was a fine evening, the ships and yachts in the harbour were decked with flags, salutes were fired, and as night fell a display of fireworks was to be seen on the land as a magnificent aurora borealis lighted up the northern sky.

From the moment of the purchase of the Balmoral estate Prince Albert had devoted careful attention to the building of cottages for the tenantry, and bringing the land under a better system of cultivation, but he was in no hurry to force improvements upon a people who had long been accustomed to old grooves. He saw that to improve the property he must first improve the tenants, and he therefore set about affording them the means of living in comfort and decency, providing cottages and gardens, and where it was possible a croft and a cow for handicraftsmen and labourers of good character, whom he

encouraged to settle there. School-houses were built and teachers provided for the children, and a library—the joint gift of the Queen and the Prince—was opened at Balmoral for the people of the district. In the autumn of 1852 these agencies were in useful operation, many improvements had been effected, the new cottages were finished, and as we have seen it was determined to build a new house to supersede the old castle. Lord Malmesbury, who was in attendance, said in his memoirs: “Balmoral is an old country house in bad repair and totally unfit for royal personages. . . . The royal party consists of the Duchess of Kent, the ladies in waiting, Colonel Phipps,<sup>1</sup> and Sir Arthur Gordon. The rooms are so small that I am obliged to write my despatches on my bed, and to keep the window constantly open to admit the necessary quantity of air, and my private secretary, George Harris, lodged somewhere three miles off. We played at billiards every evening, the Queen and the Duchess being constantly obliged to get up from their chairs to be out of the way of the cues. Nothing could be more cheerful and evidently perfectly happy than the Queen and Prince, or more kind to every one round them. I never met any man so remarkable for the variety of information on all subjects as the latter, with a great fund of humour *quand il se deboutonne*. . . . The Prince had a wood driven not far from the house. After we had been posted in line, two fine stags passed me, which I missed; Colonel Phipps fired next; and lastly, the Prince, without any effect. The Queen had come out to see the sport, lying down in the heather by the Prince, and witnessed all these fiascos to our humiliation.”

The estate of Balmoral was bought by Prince Albert, and

<sup>1</sup> Colonel Phipps and Colonel (afterwards General) Grey had been appointed to the offices of private secretary and privy-purse to Prince Albert after the death of Mr. Anson.

belonged to him as Osborne belonged to the Queen; but it was a remarkable coincidence that at the time when the further improvements and the building of a new mansion-house had been decided on, the Queen (on the 30th of August) heard to her astonishment that a large fortune, amounting to £250,000, had been bequeathed to her by Mr. John Camden Nield, an old barrister and a man of considerable attainments but of most penurious and miserly habits. The money had come to him on the death of his father, but he had probably been so long accustomed to pinch and save that he did not need it, and at his death thought that he could leave it to no one better than the Queen. Her Majesty, however, would not accept the legacy till she learned that there were no relations of Mr. Nield who had a claim to it. One of the executors, Dr. Tatham, Archdeacon of Bedford, went to Balmoral to explain that there were no such claimants, and that except some trifling bequests the whole amount was a legacy to the sovereign. "It is astonishing," the Queen had written to King Leopold; "but it is satisfactory to see that people have so much confidence that it will not be thrown away, and so certainly it will not be. I am very curious to hear, however, what led this old gentleman to do it."

The plain little white parish church of Crathie on the knoll on the further side of the Dee became to the Queen a symbol of spiritual strength and rest. There from the seats in the wide gallery, where she sat with her husband and her children, she could be at one with the humble worshippers who gathered together to listen and to pray. On either side and in the plain pews below were the people whom she knew so well and among whom she lived as a kindly lady of the manor; and there, too, in the noble equality of the house of God, came many great

statesmen, orators, scholars, soldiers, to join in the simple service and to hear the voices of great preachers who sometimes officiated for the parish minister.

It was in October, 1854, that her Majesty had to record her first meeting with Norman Macleod—the man who was to become a cherished friend and confidant in the after years when the royal life was overcast with the abiding shadows of her great sorrows. “We went to kirk as usual at twelve o’clock. The service was performed by the Rev. Norman Macleod of Glasgow, son of Dr. Macleod, and anything finer I never heard. The sermon, entirely extempore, was quite admirable; so simple and yet so eloquent, and so beautifully argued and put. . . . Everyone came back delighted; and how satisfactory it is to come back from church with such feelings! The servants and the Highlanders—*all*—were equally delighted.”

In 1855, as we have seen, the house was partly finished, but the lower and the connecting part of the building were still incomplete, and the offices were unbuilt, so that the way lay through the old house, where the gentlemen of the suite, except the cabinet minister in attendance on the Queen, still had to live. In August in the following year the new house was finished, the tower and the offices completed, and the old building had disappeared.

This mansion-house—a castle built of reddish granite and in what is sometimes known as the baronial style, that is to say, with somewhat irregularly placed extinguisher-shaped turrets, and with a square tower containing nothing more alarming than a clock—became the northern, as “sweet Osborne” was the southern, home of the royal family.

The furniture and internal decorations of the mansion at Balmoral are mostly plain and homely as befits a country house,

and the numerous apartments are comfortable and well suited for the accommodation of a large family circle, but are not of regal dimensions, nor do they exhibit the elegancies of Osborne, or the stately grandeur and sumptuous accessories of Windsor. The drawing and dining rooms are fine spacious rooms; there is a capital billiard-room, where the ladies no longer have to manœuvre to get out of the way of the cues, and there is a capital library. The ball-room is a long and large hall forming an adjunct to the house, as it is built out and forms a feature of itself; but it is a comparatively plain building, and the internal decorations consist chiefly of simple devices placed at regular intervals on the walls, with such additions as are most seasonable when a ball is held there for the entertainment either of guests, tenants, or retainers. In these festivities the royal children used to take part in homely fashion; and it is on record in one of Prince Albert's letters, that at a gillies' ball Prince Arthur (the Duke of Connaught) distinguished himself and was greatly applauded in the Highland reels, in which, "next to Jamie Gow, he was the favourite in the room."

The weeks spent at Balmoral may be said to have been happy holiday times, and the domestic life was free from the troublesome conventional restraints of the court. There was much out-door exercise, a good deal of sport after deer and game, simple pleasant gatherings, Highland games, dances, and healthful excursions amidst grand and beautiful scenery and pure mountain air. The Queen and her children went about familiarly among keepers and gillies, tenants and cottagers on the estate, and the people in the village, whose circumstances and families were well known to the inmates of the castle; and, in fact, her Majesty and the royal children made frequent and unceremonious calls here and there, and were customers at the





Engraved by Teyssier

IN THE DEESIDE HIGHLANDS

Drawn by H. M. Paget





shop—the one shop, with grocery and chandlery on one side, and drapery and haberdashery on the other. It is easy to see from the brief, bright, picturesque references in the journal of the daily life at Balmoral, that her Majesty was delighted with this sense of freedom and simple secure acquaintanceship with her humble neighbours, who pleased her the more because of their unaffected truth and honest independence.

At the time of the betrothal of the Princess Royal these visits to the cottagers were among the Queen's pleasant avocations. In September, 1857, shortly after the cheerful excursion of the whole court to the Linn of Dee, where in "Highland state" her Majesty went to open the new bridge, we read:—(September 26th) "Albert went out with Alfred for the day, and I walked out with the two girls and Lady Churchill, stopped at the shop and made some purchases for poor people and others; drove a little way, got out and walked up the hill to Balnacroft, Mrs. P. Farquharson's, and she walked round with us to some of the cottages to show me where the poor people lived, and to tell them who I was. Before we went into any, we met an old woman, who, Mrs. Farquharson said, was very poor, eighty-eight years of age. I gave her a warm petticoat, and the tears rolled down her old cheeks, and she shook my hands, and prayed God to bless me. It was very touching.

"I went into a small cabin of old Kitty Kear's, who is eighty-six years old—quite erect, and who welcomed us with a great air of dignity. She sat down and spun. I gave her also a warm petticoat. She said, 'May the Lord ever attend ye and yours, here and hereafter; and may the Lord be a Guide to ye, and keep ye from all harm!' She was quite surprised at Vicky's height; great interest is taken in her. We went on to a cottage (formerly Jean Gordon's) to visit the old widow Symons, who is

‘past fourscore,’ with a nice rosy face, but was bent quite double; she was most friendly, shaking hands with us all, asking which was I, and repeating many kind blessings—‘May the Lord attend ye with mirth and with joy: may He ever be with ye in this world, and when ye leave it!’ To Vicky, when told she was going to be married, she said, ‘May the Lord be a Guide to ye in your future, and may every happiness attend ye!’ She was very talkative; and when I said I hoped to see her again, she expressed an expectation that ‘she should be called any day,’ and so did Kitty Kear.

“We went into three other cottages; to Mrs. Symons’s (daughter-in-law to the old widow living next door), who had an unwell boy; then across a little burn to another old woman’s; and afterwards peeped into Blair the fiddler’s. We drove back, and got out again to visit old Mrs. Grant, who is so tidy and clean, and to whom I gave a dress and handkerchief. She said, ‘You’re too kind to me; you’re o’er kind to me; ye give me more every year, and I get older every year.’ After talking some time with me, she said, ‘I am happy to see ye looking so nice.’ She had tears in her eyes, and speaking of Vicky’s going, said, ‘I’m very sorry, and I think she is sorry hersel’;’ and having said she feared she would not see her (the princess) again, added, ‘I’m very sorry I said that, but I meant no harm; I always say just what I think, not what is fut’ (fit). Dear old lady; she is such a pleasant person.

“Really the affection of these good people, who are so hearty and so happy to see you, taking interest in everything, is very touching and gratifying.”

This deep regard and affection for the Queen was assuredly the outcome of her own kindly solicitude and frank personal recognition of the people around her. Her Majesty not only

appreciated, but unaffectedly acknowledged their services, and the good-will and respect with which they were rendered. In the words of Sir Arthur Helps, "Her Majesty never takes for granted the services and attentions which are rendered to her, and which we all know would be rendered to her from dutiful respect and regard; but views them as special kindnesses to herself, and to which she makes no claim whatever from her exalted position as a sovereign."

The late Mr. George Dawson in one of his famous lectures gave a charming illustration of the difference between kindness and *loving* kindness by relating that Martin Luther at regular and frequent intervals wrote an affectionate letter to his little son—a pleasant merry letter in language suitable for a child—this was kindness; but the great reformer also always took pains to write plain and large that the little fellow might be able to read it for himself; it was this that expressed the *loving* kindness. The same illustration will indicate the relation which the Queen has sustained to those with whom she has been associated—the direct personal interest which she spontaneously takes in the well-being of those about her.

The same relation to servants and tenants was maintained by Prince Albert. There is abundant testimony to his kindliness of disposition, and to the sentiments of affection and esteem which animated all those who came habitually within the influence of his cheerful temper and practical common sense. At a much earlier date—years before the establishment of the estates at Osborne and Balmoral—he had made known his sentiments with regard to domestic servants. He had with alacrity consented to preside at a public meeting in aid of the Servants' Provident and Benevolent Society, and in his opening remarks said: "Who would not feel the deepest interest in the welfare

of their domestic servants? Whose heart would fail to sympathize with those who minister to us in all the wants of daily life, attend us in sickness, receive us upon our first appearance in this world, and even extend their cares to our mortal remains, who live under our roof, form our household, and are a part of our family?" Nor did he satisfy himself by these declarations, but afterwards devoted careful thought and attention to the Deferred Annuities Act and to the Savings-banks Bill, introduced by the government for the purpose of affording an opportunity to the humbler classes for making a provision for the future.

The Prince was a kind but not an indulgent master. He expected that duties should be promptly and properly performed; but he appreciated and rewarded their conscientious fulfilment, not only by pleasant personal recognition, but by promotion, and he was loved for his kindly perception while he was sincerely respected for the justice by which his favour was regulated. He held it to be essential to every worthy endeavour to improve the condition of servants or labourers, that their own efforts should be the means of their success, and that no more aid or encouragement should be given them than would enable them to surmount their difficulties without compromising their independence and self-respect. This principle he carried out in the improvements which he effected at Osborne and Balmoral. In the latter place the means of instruction for the children, and of mental and moral improvement, were provided. Neat, well-built cottages superseded the mere cabins which were found on one part of the estate; labour was adequately paid for, good workmanship and good agriculture were encouraged, and at the same time the people were shown not only that these things were done that they might share the

benefits of the improved conditions, but that allowances would be made for the circumstances which had made them oppose new methods and improvements. The Prince had the philosophical temper which does not expect or desire too much at once. He knew that patient instruction and encouragement must precede education, and he could wait for the success of experiments, of the eventual beneficial results of which he was certain.

It will thus be seen that the title of "Prince Consort" which had in 1857 been officially conferred on Prince Albert was truly significant of the union of sentiment and responsibility which the royal parents shared as heads of the household and as the master and mistress living amidst and employing their tenantry; the agricultural portion of whom were encouraged to acquire small handicrafts which would give them useful occupation in the winter months when little work could be done in farm or garden.

In the pleasant excursions to lake, wood, and mountain—those outings which the Queen loved, without much caring for occasional rough weather—the elder children were now able to take their share, and they also took their share, in the intervals of their own studies, in visiting the cottagers or the schools, where they listened to the singing, heard which of the pupils were most proficient, and gave prizes to encourage them.

It would appear indeed that the love for children, which had been so decided a characteristic of the Queen when she was herself the little Princess, is inherent in the members of the royal family; and it may well be believed that of all the spectacles which have awaited her Majesty on her visits to different parts of the kingdom, few have made such a deep impression as that of the eighty-two thousand school children assembled in Peel



Park at the time of her visit to Liverpool, Manchester, and Salford, in October, 1851, on the way from Balmoral to Windsor Castle, a visit which became a reminiscence of the Exhibition year.

That journey, in which her Majesty was accompanied by the Prince and the two elder children, was singularly significant because of the admirable orderly loyalty demonstrated by the people throughout the route. At Lancaster, the royal visitors drove from the railway to the castle, where at John o' Gaunt's Gateway the keys were delivered and two "prettily worded" addresses presented. The people assembled in the streets wore red roses or red rosettes as emblems of the House of Lancaster, and the journey was continued to Croxteth, where the royal party were the guests of the Earl of Sefton, and next morning drove to Liverpool, but in close carriages, for the rain was coming down in torrents. The Queen wrote in her journal: "Vicky and Bertie with us, the two others in the next carriages. It poured; the roads were a sea of mud, and yet the whole way along was lined with people, and all so wet! The atmosphere was so thick that we could see a very little way before us. Still the reception was most enthusiastic. The preparations were beautiful. . . . The streets were densely crowded in spite of the horrible weather, everything extremely well arranged and beautifully decorated, but the poor people so wet and so dirty! We were obliged to spread Albert's large cloak over us to protect us from the rain and the splashing of the mud." But the magnificent harbour and docks, to see which the royal party embarked on the *Fairy*; the reception at the handsome town-hall, where the mayor and corporation presented addresses in the council-room, and Mr. Bent, the mayor, was knighted; and the subsequent visit to St. George's Hall, with the simple grandeur of which Prince Albert was delighted, were

compensations for the discomfort of the procession. From Liverpool the journey was to Patricroft by railway, and thence on board a state barge on the Bridgewater Canal to Worsley Park, where the royal party were the guests of Lord Ellesmere. That evening Mr. Nasmyth, the inventor of the steam-hammer, went from his works at Patricroft to be introduced to the royal visitors, who were greatly pleased, not only with the maps and diagrams by which he explained some of his investigations of the conformation and atmosphere of the moon, or with his admirable drawings of landscapes, but with the simple modest enthusiasm of his conversation. By a coincidence that same evening there came the news of the successful laying of the first submarine telegraph—that between Dover and Calais.

The next morning the weather was fine and the drive to Pendleton, Salford, and Manchester was a pleasant one, for though it lay for the most part amidst factories, there were abundant and effective decorations, and “the mechanics and work-people, dressed in their best, were ranged along the streets with white rosettes in their button-holes. . . . We went into Peel Park before leaving Salford—the mayor having got out and received us at the entrance—where was indeed a most extraordinary and, I suppose, totally unprecedented sight—82,000 school children—Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Catholics (these children having a small crucifix suspended round their necks), Baptists, and Jews, whose faces told their descent;—with their teachers. In the middle of the park was erected a pavilion, under which we drove (but did not get out), where the address was read. All the children sang ‘God save the Queen’ extremely well together, the director being placed on a very high stand, from which he could command the whole park.” From further details it would appear that the vast multitude of children

was conducted not only by the one general director, but by several others, who occupied high stands at various points whence each watched the chief conductor and led the music with a trumpet.

Altogether this visit to the great manufacturing centre was very satisfactory, and the Queen's account of it shows plainly how she sympathized with the orderly people at Liverpool, who stood in the rain and bore to be soaked with wet and mire rather than forego their loyal and living demonstration. Of the population of Manchester her Majesty speaks no less appreciatively. At that time there were in Manchester few or none of the fine buildings which are now to be seen there; but "the streets were immensely full, and the cheering and enthusiasm most gratifying." In the midst of it all, and within sight of the decorations, and the great triumphal arch at the entrance to the city, the quick observant eye—the gentle woman's heart—could see and feel that the people who stood in closely packed ranks in the streets both in Salford and Manchester were a very intelligent but painfully unhealthy looking population; but the order and good behaviour of the multitude, who were not placed behind any barriers, were "the most complete we have seen in our many progresses through capitals and cities: London, Glasgow, Dublin, Edinburgh, &c., for there never was a running crowd—nobody moved."

To commemorate the Queen's visit to Peel Park, the 82,000 Sunday-scholars and teachers, aided by public subscriptions, contributed to erect a statue of her Majesty in the park itself, and this statue was unveiled by Prince Albert on the 6th of May, 1857, on the occasion of his visit to Manchester to inaugurate a magnificent Exhibition of Art Treasures, formed by a loan collection of the finest pictures from the private galleries of noble-



men and gentlemen throughout the country. The success of this scheme had been greatly due to the advice and energetic assistance of the Prince, who proposed that the exhibition should be made both national and educational by obtaining examples of the best paintings of the best masters, and so arranging them as to illustrate the history of art in a chronological and systematic manner. An able letter in which he set forth his plan was made public, the owners of rare and valuable paintings heartily supported the proposal, and the committee, of which Lord Ellesmere was chairman, were able to secure splendid results by an exhibition of art treasures such as had never before been seen in England.

On the 5th of May—ten months after the inception of the undertaking—the Prince left Buckingham Palace at six in the morning for Cheadle near Stockport, where he was met by Mr. Watts, the Mayor of Manchester, and some of the principal men of the county, and with them proceeded to open the Exhibition, which they reached about two o'clock, where, amidst a brilliant company and with a very fine musical performance, the inauguration was celebrated. There were addresses to reply to, and altogether a hard day's work to accomplish; but by eight o'clock next morning his Royal Highness and his suite were on their way to Peel Park, there to unveil the statue. There was another speech to make, more addresses to receive, and a visit to be paid to an exhibition of Manchester local artists—and the Prince had been all the time suffering from a cold which made speech-making difficult, if not painful; but soon after mid-day he was on the way back to London, and at six in the evening was present in the council-room at Buckingham Palace, where the speech for the opening of the new parliament was to be submitted to the Queen.

Her Majesty had been unable to accompany him to the inauguration, but the 29th of June was the date fixed for her visit; and on that day her Majesty, the Prince Consort, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, and Prince Frederick William of Prussia left London for Worsley Hall, where they were to be honoured guests during their brief stay in Lancashire.

Early next morning they were on their way to the Exhibition. The weather was dull and some rain fell, but the showers were so light that there was no need to close the carriages, or seriously to mar the beautiful decorations of the usually somewhat dreary streets,—the flags, flowers, gay drapery, triumphal arches bearing loyal inscriptions, in some of which the names of Prince Albert, the Princess Royal, and the Prince of Prussia appeared, with words of welcome and popular approbation. Above a million people had assembled. “The crowd,” the Queen wrote, “was enormous, greater than ever witnessed before, and enthusiastic beyond belief; nothing but kind and friendly faces.” The exhibition building was filled with a multitude of well-dressed people. Her Majesty, attended by the Prince and the royal party, took her place on a raised dais where, amidst a throng of brilliant and distinguished visitors, she received and replied to addresses from the corporations of Manchester and Salford and from the executive committee, and conferred the honour of knighthood on the Mayor of Manchester, for which ceremony she borrowed of Sir Harry Smith a sword which had been in four general actions. After devoting the afternoon to an inspection of the picture galleries, the royal cortege returned to Worsley amidst falling rain, which, however, had diminished neither the numbers nor the expressive loyalty of the people, who had all remained in the streets.

Again on the following morning the royal visitors were early at the building, to examine more carefully the matchless display of various works of art, and the Queen passed through Peel Park on her way back to Worsley Hall, while Prince Albert, his two sons, and Prince Frederick William, went to the town-hall, where an address from the corporation was received and responded to by the Prussian prince, who was heartily applauded. After visiting some of the large manufactories the princes followed her Majesty to Worsley Hall, which they reached at seven o'clock in the evening. On the following day the whole party returned to London, and were at Buckingham Palace at three o'clock in the afternoon, just in time for Prince Albert to go to meet King Leopold and his family at the railway station on their arrival from Brussels, and to preside at a meeting of the Royal Fine Arts Commission. In the evening the Queen gave a grand concert of Italian music, and so ended a day which, coming as the termination of a long journey and an excursion, itself somewhat fatiguing, may be said to have required no little energy for the due fulfilment of its engagements.

In a letter to Stockmar Prince Albert refers to the touching enthusiasm of the reception in Manchester and says:—"Fritz was also received with great affection. He is to receive the freedom of the city (of London) on the 13th in Guildhall, and must leave us for Germany on the 14th. Bertie set out to-day at noon for Konigswinter; he will take a week to get there." So the first flight from the parent nest was to be that of the two elder children; the marriage of the Princess Royal was to take place in the beginning of the next year, and the Prince of Wales was to go abroad for a time to pursue his studies, with his tutors Mr. Gibbs and the Rev. Charles Tarver, and

General Grey and Colonel (now General) Sir H. Ponsonby accompanied him. For young companions while he was at Konigswinter, he had Mr. Frederick Stanley, son of Lord Derby, Mr. W. Gladstone, Mr. C. Wood, and Lord Cadogan (son of Lord Halifax).

To the Queen and Prince Albert the education of their children was a most important duty—a constant solemn responsibility; and they were anxiously careful not only to secure for them such instruction as should enable them to acquire the knowledge and accomplishments necessary to their high station, and to the future relations which they would have to sustain; but also to lead them to regard the claims of their moral and spiritual nature, as demands upon the true recognition of which not only their personal happiness but their social usefulness and their claim to respect and esteem must depend. To be helpful, kind, courteous, sympathetic, and single-minded, were the lessons inculcated, and not only the profession of religion, but the practical and hearty application of it, was the earliest teaching that they received from their parents.

Every care had been taken by her Majesty and by Prince Albert to provide for the instruction of these young pupils, and the lessons were frequently heard or given by the Queen herself. Even while on board the yacht, or at other times of leisure, her Majesty would take the duty of teacher, and was therefore able to test the general progress made by the little pupils, and at the same time to maintain the pleasant domestic character of their studies by giving them a practical and natural direction.

We have already seen with what precocious facility the Princess Royal acquired the application of her French reading lessons, and there seems to have been a very remarkable

faculty on the part of the royal parents, of adapting the knowledge derived from lessons to the practical enjoyment of the pleasures of a holiday excursion.

The Queen frequently recorded in writing her opinions on the subject of the necessity for education being associated inseparably with the delights and duties of family life. We are informed that one of her memoranda written on the 4th of March, 1844, concludes with the words:—"The greatest maxim of all is, that the children should be brought up as simply and in as domestic a way as possible; that (not interfering with their lessons) they should be as much as possible with their parents, and learn to place their greatest confidence in them in all things."

Not less but more anxiously were the religious impressions of the children to be cared for by the parents. The first infant thoughts of the spiritual life were to be those that quickened in response to the mother's words. In this respect the Queen had greater difficulties than many other women experience. The royal occupations which were among her duties left her less time than she desired for the regular teaching of her children; and yet their religious instruction, and the doctrines to which their attention would afterwards be directed, were among the subjects in which there would one day be a claim of national interest. Her Majesty and Prince Albert were alike desirous of maintaining simplicity and open-mindedness in religion, and though the royal mother was prevented by her public duties from taking the entire charge of the first religious training, she never allowed either that or the ordinary teaching to lose her vigilant care. Her views were made clear in written memoranda, in one of which she says, speaking of the little Princess Royal (13th November, 1844), "It is already a hard case for me that

my occupations prevent me being with her when she says her prayers;" but the same memorandum says: "I am *quite* clear that she should be taught to have great reverence for God and for religion, but that she should have the feelings of devotion and love which our heavenly Father encourages his earthly children to have for him, and not one of fear and trembling; and that the thoughts of death and an after-life should not be represented in an alarming and forbidding view, and that she should be made to know *as yet* no difference of creeds, and not think that she can only pray on her knees, or that those who do not kneel are less fervent and devout in their prayers."

These concluding words seem to be pointed with some distinct significance to circumstances of which there is no particular mention; but it must be remembered that at that time a "movement" was taking place in relation to the English Church which required to be carefully noted, and with which neither the Queen nor Prince Albert, who was, so to speak, a representative of the Protestant reformed religion, were likely to be in sympathy.

There was much uneasiness because of the attempts which it was believed were being made under the direct sanction of the pope, to re-introduce the assumptions and to increase the influence of the Roman Catholic Church in England; and the professions of a number of the English clergy who were supporting the declaration of Dr. Pusey and others, gave additional emphasis to the warnings of Protestant and "Evangelical" churchmen, Nonconformists, and advocates of religious liberty. Dr. Pusey was professor of Hebrew at Oxford, and he represented what were for the most part the doctrines and opinions of several other clergymen of acknowledged learning and piety, and of high reputation, whose avowed desire was to bring back



the Church of England in doctrine and practice to harmony with their interpretations of Scripture, and with the fathers of the Church before the First Council of Nice in the year 325. But this mere statement of their intention by no means embraces all that was included in their representations, as set forth in a series of "Tracts for the Times," which were evidently intended to establish what came to be termed Anglo-Catholicism, the observances of which, to the Protestant eye, differed little from those of Romanism. The "Puseyites," "Anglo-Catholics," or "Tractarians," for they were called by each of these names, increased considerably in numbers, and thousands of people in the classes of "culture" joined their ranks. The doctrines of the "Tracts" were disseminated by pamphlets, poems, hymns, and stories. Churches that needed repair were "restored" by means of mediæval architecture or decoration. Roman Catholic symbols formed the ornaments, candles were lighted on the altars, before which genuflections were performed. The sign of the cross was frequently made; a crucifix sometimes occupied a conspicuous position; in some instances incense was burnt; the services were intoned; the priests wore a variety of vestments the names of which were strange to English ears. The doctrines set forth by the Tractarians were regarded by thoughtful Protestants as direct attempts to Romanize the English Church; for they insisted not only on the authority of tradition as well as that of Scripture in teaching revealed truth and as a rule of faith, but on the inherent efficacy of the sacraments as means of salvation if administered by a priest who could claim apostolical succession, as the Anglo-Catholic clergy did; on the right of the clergy to interpret Scripture; on the doctrine of baptismal regeneration; on the right to officiate at mass in a manner which resembled that

of the Roman Catholic communion, and to all but casuists inferred if it did not absolutely assert the doctrine of "the real presence" in the elements. The last of the tracts, which was for some time famous as "Tract XC.," was written to show that students intended to become clergymen in the Church of England need not scruple to subscribe to the thirty-nine articles, even though they had joined the ranks of Anglo-Catholicism. This was too much—the University of Oxford repudiated the conclusions set forth, and the tract, which was the last of the series, was condemned.

The general opinion of the tendency of Tractarianism was justified by the fact that many of the clergy, and numbers of the laity who had subscribed to its doctrines, had logical perception enough to go over to the Roman Catholic Church; and in 1845 Mr. Newman, the author of "Tract XC.," did the same, and afterwards became a cardinal. In 1847 the Bishop of Exeter, who was to the front in Anglo-Catholicism, refused to induct to a living a Mr. Gorham, because in his examination he had refused to subscribe to the bishop's views on baptismal regeneration. The Court of Arches, as an ecclesiastical court, confirmed the bishop's decision; but Mr. Gorham took his case to a judicial committee of the privy-council, who in 1850, after a trial which lasted three years, reversed the decision of the former court—a result so discouraging to the pretensions of the Anglo-Catholic clergy that nearly a hundred of them left the English Church for that of Rome.

It will be seen from this brief sketch of the difficulty in the "Established" Church, that the Queen and Prince Albert were deeply concerned in carefully directing the religious education of their children, and that the responsibility increased when the Princess Royal and the Prince of Wales were old enough to

receive instruction in the liberal doctrines of the Church of England.

This is not the place to inquire whether the "Tractarian" movement and its results had any influence in the determination of the pope, but on the 24th of September a papal bull was issued, announcing the establishment of a Roman hierarchy in England, composed of bishops with titles taken from the sees to which they were appointed on papal authority, and the excitement caused in England was so considerable that Cardinal Wiseman, who had been nominated Archbishop of Westminster, thought it necessary to appeal to the reason and good feeling of the English people and to justify the proceedings of the pope. The cardinal was well known in London, where he resided, as a highly-cultured, pleasant man, of charitable disposition and with eminent social qualities; and he urged that there had always been in the Benedictine order an Abbot of Westminster, that the dean and chapter had never been disturbed by this "titular," and that they need fear no greater aggression from himself, who sought for the duties of his bishopric among the slums and alleys of the district swarming with a huge and almost countless population, in great measure—nominally, at least—Catholic.

This was all very well; but the general impression was that which Lord John Russell expressed in a letter to the Bishop of Durham, that there was an assumption of power in the documents which had come from Rome, a pretension of supremacy over the realm of England, and a claim to sole and undivided sway which was inconsistent with the Queen's supremacy, with the rights of the bishops and clergy, and with the spiritual independence of the nation as asserted even in Roman Catholic times. He determined to make this a matter

for parliamentary interference, but at the same time pointed out that the danger from papal aggression was insignificant as compared with that within the gates from the unworthy sons of the Church of England herself; and he asserted his confidence in the English people to uphold the principles of the Reformation.

The Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, as the measure introduced by Lord John came to be called, was professedly designed to protect the Catholic laity from aggression; to guard against the absorption of endowments; and to forbid the assumption by Roman Catholics of clerical titles taken from any place in the United Kingdom, and to render void all acts done by parties under such titles. The measure was only finally passed after much discussion, during which it was sought to exclude Ireland from its operation. On the face of it there was little probability of its becoming of much greater importance than it possessed as a demonstration against "papal aggression," and few people supposed that the British people were likely to return to Roman Catholic observances and doctrines. Lord John Russell himself had stated that he had confidence in the nation, and Mr. Gladstone opposed the bill on the ground that it was hostile to the institutions of this country, more especially to its established religion, because it would teach it to rely on other supports than that of the spiritual strength and vitality which alone could give it vigour. The bill being passed it never became conspicuously operative, and it neither abolished the "titular" pretensions which, as Cardinal Wiseman had said, already existed in the Roman organizations, and of which the British people knew nothing; nor could it very well prevent the secret assumption of ecclesiastical titles which, so far as could be discovered, had no effect. It came to be recognized that if a man could not easily be prevented from fantastically calling himself Lord Shoreditch, or Count of

Rosemary Lane, or Marquis of Billingsgate: or, to go further, if presidents, precentors, or representatives of various religious bodies could include in their organizations some authoritative ministration to people belonging to their communion in various districts, it would be difficult to put a law in force to forbid the appointment by the Roman Catholic Church of clergy having no other authority than the spiritual direction of congregations of those belonging to their sect in the United Kingdom, though some of such clergy should be called bishops or even archbishops. Consequently (and it may be mentioned here as consistently as in a later page) the bill became of less and less importance; and though it lasted till 1871, a committee of inquiry having then sat for above three years to consider its provisions, it was repealed.

But in 1850 energetic demonstrations against papal assumption had been made at public meetings, and by pamphlets, sermons, and letters and articles in the public press. National excitement and indignation had been increased by the monstrously inflated language employed by Cardinal Wiseman in his pastoral (which differed widely from that of his pacific explanations), as Archbishop of Westminster and administrator-apostolic of the diocese of Southwark, and by the no less arrogant terms of the brief issued by the pope, who had then so little authority even in Rome that he had quite recently been obliged to escape from "the Eternal City" in disguise, and had only returned under the protection of the French bayonets.

The introduction into the Church of practices which resembled those of the Roman communion gave emphasis to the antagonism which was now provoked to anger, and in many instances to a temper of violent intolerance. Addresses from societies and institutions of all denominations were sent to the



Queen; and on the 10th of December the corporation of London and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge sent deputations of their representatives numbering some hundreds to Windsor to present addresses protesting against the establishment of a Roman Catholic hierarchy. The address from Oxford was read by the Duke of Wellington as chancellor, with a revival of his energetic and animated manner; Prince Albert as chancellor of Cambridge read with clear and well-marked emphasis the appeal placed in his hands. To each address her Majesty replied simply and deliberately in calm and decided accents. It was her duty at once to deprecate an intolerant or violent spirit, and to assert her determination to oppose any attempt to impose upon the country a restoration of papal authority. To the University of Oxford she replied: "While I cordially concur in the wish that all classes of my subjects should enjoy the free exercise of their religion, you may rely on my determination to uphold alike the rights of the crown and the independence of my people against all aggressions and encroachments of any foreign power."

Both the addresses and the replies to them were distinguished by firm but moderate language. Her Majesty wrote next day to the Duchess of Gloucester, who had complimented her on her replies: "I would never have consented to say anything which breathed a spirit of intolerance. Sincerely Protestant as I always have been and always shall be, and indignant as I am at those who call themselves Protestants while they are in fact quite the contrary, I much regret the unchristian and intolerant spirit exhibited by many people at the public meetings. I cannot bear to hear the violent abuse of the Catholic religion, which is so painful and so cruel towards the many good and innocent Roman Catholics. However, we must hope and trust this



excitement will soon cease, and that the wholesome effect of it upon our own Church will be lasting."

Prince Albert like the Queen observed the causes of the excitement with a calm eye and a temperate judgment. It was not likely that he could speak of the attempts of the Roman Catholic hierarchy with complacency though he certainly regarded them with composure, nor was it to be expected that he would acknowledge the authority of any of the clergy of the English church to reimpose upon the consciences of men those fetters from which they had been freed by the Reformation and the extension of religious thought, concurrently with the development of education and of liberal institutions.

In a memorandum on the Church crisis he says: "Our ancestors the Barons of England . . . when they met King John on Runnymede, contented themselves with a few terse sentences and principles, which form the Great Charter, and which contain the whole essence of all English liberty, and of that highly developed and complicated constitution which has since become the object of admiration to the world. . . . It was a premature decision on the details of church government and doctrine, in the absence of a broad and leading principle, and the fact of their being finally settled for posterity by those into whose hands the conduct of the Reformation fell, which prevented the Church of England from participating in that constant and free development which the state has been able to derive from the broad principles of Magna Charta. . . . We have intense excitement and animosity of parties, and the most heterogeneous elements, views, and interests, joining in the outcry against the pope, and particularly against the Puseyites. There will be no want of proposals in the next session of parliament for special measures of detail: assembling of the convoca-

tion; alteration of the rubric; change of the thirty-nine articles; removal of the bishops from the House of Lords; increase of the bishops; alteration of tithes; separation of church and state; &c. &c. And it is very likely that the fire of indignation against the Romanizers will spend itself, and the end be general discontent and a weakening of the Church. If this is not to be the inevitable consequence of the present movement, those who mean to lead it ought to be content with the assertion of some intelligible and sound principle, and should endeavour to find some proper formula for expressing it. The *principle* will easily be found if the common cause of discontent which has occasioned the excitement has been ascertained. If strictly analysed this cause appears to be the introduction of Romish doctrines and practices by the clergy of England contrary to the will and feelings of the Protestant congregations, under the assumption that the clergy alone had any authority in church matters. If this be the fundamental evil, against this ought the remedial principle to be directed, and this principle might be thus expressed: that the laity have an equal share of authority in the church with the clergy; that no alteration in the form of divine service shall therefore be made by the clergy without the formal consent of the laity; nor any interpretation given of articles of faith without their concurrence. This principle once recognized as law, a whole living church constitution will spring from it, including church government and doctrines."

Discussion of any of these opinions would be out of place here, but it is important that we should understand the attitude of the Prince Consort in relation to what was called the religious question, and he held that though upon the particular nature of the resulting church constitution and its details the most opposite opinions might be entertained, it might well be left

to time and public discussion to carry out its development by degrees, and the same respect for historical tradition and vested rights which had marked the progress of the British constitution, added to a high sense of the sacred nature of the work to be performed, would not fail to attend that development.

This memorandum is an example of Prince Albert's intellectual tendency to reduce any subject of discussion in which he took an interest to clear and definite statements; and it also indicates the freedom of opinion,—the open-mindedness, which were conspicuous qualities of both him and his brother in quite early years. The conditions of their early education and its completion at Brussels, where they studied the social and political questions of the time from practical observation, and while associating with men of differing opinions, gave them wide views. It is not surprising that when they went to the University of Bonn to finish their general education their opinions were more advanced than those of most of the professors, who were ready to "make the best of the best possible world" by regarding all their own existing institutions as having been established by divine authority in a different sense to that held by the Saxe-Coburg princes. On these intellectual characteristics of the Prince Consort an effective "side-light" is thrown by a book published by his brother the Duke of Saxe-Coburg,<sup>1</sup> and it may very readily be understood that his views on church government would not be acceptable to those whose opinions were represented by "Tracts for the Times." There was good evidence that he had at all events not departed Romeward from the traditions of his family as the descendants of the first Protestant prince in Europe.

The anxiety of the Queen to secure a trustworthy and

<sup>1</sup> Aus meinem Leben und aus meiner Zeit. Von Ernst II., Herzog von Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha. Vol. i. November, 1887.

competent directress of the education of her infant children was naturally great, and early in 1842 she consulted Lord Melbourne. Her Majesty was deeply convinced that she should seek for a person in whom implicit confidence might be placed, and who would be responsible to her and to the Prince, as they would be responsible to the nation.

There were difficulties in the way. A lady of high rank would not be so likely as one of lower pretensions to impart the simple and domestic education desired by the Queen, and would also, perhaps, be too prone to think that she and not the royal parent was the person responsible to the country; on the other hand, "a person of good condition," as Lord Melbourne put it, would better understand the precise nature, duties, and responsibilities of her place, and would be more likely to fulfil and observe them. At anyrate the Queen was determined not to appoint to the supposed direction of the studies and the guidance of the daily conduct of her children, a person who would accept the office merely for title, as was the case in relation to herself, to the Princess Charlotte, and to the daughters of George the Third. But, then, what lady of title, even assisted by a sub-governess and capable of fulfilling the onerous duties required, would consent to shut herself up in the royal nursery and practically to seclude herself from society, that she might really superintend the education of the royal children? The Queen asked that question wistfully, and seemed scarcely to suppose that it could be satisfactorily answered; but, as former pages of this narrative have already indicated, such a trustworthy and competent governess *was* found when Lady Lyttelton undertook the office which she so admirably fulfilled for nearly nine years. Sarah, Lady Lyttelton, was a daughter of the second Earl Spencer, and her mother was daughter of the

first Earl of Lucan. She had been a lady-in-waiting since 1838, was married in 1813 to the gentleman who became Lord Lyttelton, and was fifty-five years of age when she undertook the responsible duty for which she was eminently qualified, and which she discharged with an ability and devotion that not only satisfied the royal parents, but ensured their esteem and regard as well as the respect and affection of her pupils. If we are to judge from the occasional records of her memoirs and letters, as well as from the report of other people, the governess of the royal nursery was not only an accomplished and estimable lady, but a kind motherly woman. When she resigned her charge at the end of 1850, because, as she said, she was then old enough to be at rest for whatever time might be left her, we are told on the best authority that "her young charges parted from her with sad hearts and tearful eyes." She herself records that she had received from the Queen incessant and unvarying proofs of feeling and kindness through the whole twelve years during which she had served her Majesty; and on the evening before her departure, when she was sent for to the Queen's own room to say good-bye, her Majesty and the Prince both uttered words of thanks not unaccompanied by signs of evident sorrow, while her own grief prevented her from saying more than a broken sentence or two, and compelled her afterwards to "have her cry out" upon the staircase before she could go up again.

Lady Lyttelton was succeeded by Lady Caroline Barrington, sister of Earl Grey, who remained with the royal family until her death in 1875, after her duties as *gouvernante* had ceased to be required by the children of the Queen. There were, of course, other instructors engaged in teaching them, and Prince Albert himself considered it to be his first duty to regulate their studies, to select books for them to read, and to give a practical and



lively interest to their pursuits. The Queen and her husband seem to have *associated* with their children as much as was possible, and to have encouraged them to the sympathy that comes with a sense of freedom and loving confidence. Parents and children were all young together. While the Royal Family was at Windsor, there were visits to the farm, rambles in the park, rides upon the favourite ponies, and frolics with the favourite dogs, large and small, which were the frequent companions of the family circle on these outdoor expeditions. There is not a more charming indication in the Queen's journal than that which records how on the return from a journey her Majesty and the Prince arrived at Osborne in the glow of a beautiful evening, and danced with the children on the terrace; and the same home-like happy influence shines in the account of the celebration of the Prince's birthday, by a performance of the children, who appeared as "The Seasons" and in character, reciting appropriate verses.

In Scotland there were rambles and excursions besides the visits to loch, moor, and mountain, and the children were encouraged to be much in the open air. At Osborne the famous Swiss cottage was made over to them as the place where they could pursue various recreations—their play place, in which they could arrange their museum of natural history and curiosities, containing various specimens in botany, mineralogy, and geology, collected by the members of the royal family, beside stuffed birds and other animals, and many curiosities such as all children delight in. There too was a carpenter's shop for the boys, who learned something of practical mechanics, and under their father's directions constructed a model fortress, every part of which, it has been said, even to the bricks, had been manufactured by themselves. For the princesses there was a kitchen, larder, and pantry where they learned and practised the culinary art, and it



has been mentioned that they were successful in making cakes and tarts, and even of preparing plain appetizing dishes, and utilizing the produce of their own "gardens," of which each had one to cultivate. Favoured visitors, and among them some who were eminent in the world of science, were taken for a walk to see the Swiss cottage, and found in its pleasant play-rooms not the least interesting features of the royal home. Even as recently as in the accounts of the marriage of the Princess Beatrice, reference has been made to this happy retreat, where the orderly arrangement which distinguished it is said to be still preserved, and where the spades and other miniature implements are still to be seen, marked with the names or initials of the owners, and some of the toys—notably a famous horse and wagon—are carefully preserved. For it is to be noted that a certain orderliness, and the proper uses of toys and other belongings was inculcated as inseparable from true recreation; and we are reminded of the note made by the Queen in reference to her old dolls and bricks, which were still at Claremont House when "little Vicky," the Princess Royal, was first taken there on a visit.

When the Prince of Wales attained an age at which it was necessary that he should receive instruction under the direction of a tutor, every care was taken by his father in selecting a gentleman for the office who would, under his superintendence, carry out the principles on which it was determined that his education should be conducted. On a subject so important Prince Albert, though he felt little or no uncertainty as to the course which he would desire to see adopted, felt that he should seek competent and independent counsel. From Baron Stockmar he received a long and elaborate letter, which amounted to a treatise on the alternatives of a stubbornly Conservative

education, or one which would give the Prince an intelligent appreciation of the changes and developments both in church and in state resulting from the spread of education, the growth of national institutions, and increased freedom and intelligence.

The remarks of the baron were exhaustive, and accorded in the main with the conclusion at which Prince Albert had arrived; but both he and the Queen felt that it would be desirable to obtain other valuable and independent advice, and accordingly the Bishop of Oxford (Dr. Wilberforce) and Sir James Clark were requested to state their views. Thus counsel was obtained from competent men who occupied different standpoints, one representing, so to speak, the secular and scientific, and the other the sacred or religious view of the important question. The result was eminently satisfactory as a just and well-balanced medium which on the whole endorsed the conclusions of the Prince and of Baron Stockmar, who had illustrated his position that the education of the prince should be such as to make him prepared for approaching events, by saying that the proper duty of the Sovereign in this country is not to take the lead in change, but to act as a balance-wheel in the movements of the social body; but that above all attainments the prince should be trained to freedom of thought and a firm reliance on the inherent power of sound principles, political, moral, and religious, to sustain themselves and produce practical good when left in possession of a fair field of development.

When the time arrived for the tutor to be selected and the scheme of education determined, the baron gave his earnest personal aid to Prince Albert, with the result that, early in April, 1849, the latter was able to write to Gotha: "Bertie will be given over in a few weeks into the hands of a tutor, whom we have found in a Mr. Birch, a young, good-looking, amiable man,

who was a tutor at Eton, and who not only himself took the highest honours at Cambridge, but whose pupils have also won especial distinction. It is an important step, and God's blessing be upon it, for upon the good education of princes, and especially of those who are destined to govern, the welfare of the world in these days very greatly depends."

Mr. Birch continued to be tutor to the Prince of Wales till the latter part of 1851, when he was succeeded by Mr. Frederick W. Gibbs, M.A., who was recommended to the prospectively vacant appointment by Sir James Stephen; at the same time Major (afterwards Sir Thomas) Biddulph succeeded to the position of master of the horse, in place of General Bowles, whose failing health caused him to resign, and who was appointed lieutenant of the Tower at a salary of £700 a year, a position vacant by the death of General Wood.

Mr. Gibbs continued to be the Prince of Wales' tutor till 1858. His Royal Highness before that time had taken his place on state occasions beside the Queen and Prince Albert, the first time that he occupied this position being on the 3d of April, 1854, when the addresses from parliament were presented after the declaration of war with Russia had been decided on in both houses.

As we have seen, the Rev. Charles Tarver was appointed his chaplain and director of studies in 1857, previous to the visit to Konigswinter; and when Mr. Gibbs retired in 1858, Mr. Tarver accompanied the prince on his journeys to Rome, Spain, and Portugal, and afterwards at Edinburgh. He remained in the same capacity till near the end of 1859, when the prince prepared to continue his studies at Cambridge.

Prince Albert had succeeded in introducing remarkable reforms and providing for very considerable developments in

the course of instruction at this university soon after he had been elected to the chancellorship. He was not likely to be a mere lay figure when he had the opportunity of asserting the claims for a more general and extended education in accordance with the times, and he did not hesitate to declare that for the curriculum to be almost entirely confined to classical and mathematical studies was a monstrous misappreciation of the intentions of university training and the necessities of modern intellectual culture.

His election to the chancellorship of Cambridge University had been the more gratifying to the Queen because it was a recognition not only of his intellectual attainments, but of that practical ability in the science of education which enabled him to do so much in promoting general culture, and had such excellent results when directed to an extension of the subjects studied in the colleges. It was a work of much delicacy and difficulty to move the university authorities and the senate; but Prince Albert went about it with such tact and precaution that he overcame the ancient restrictions and the prejudices which confined the necessary studies chiefly to classics and mathematics. Eventually it was decided that candidates for a degree should attend at least one term of lectures in one of the following subjects: laws, physics, moral philosophy, chemistry, anatomy, modern history, botany, geology, natural or experimental philosophy, English law, medicine, mineralogy, political economy. A new honour tripos was established in the moral sciences, the places to be determined by examinations in moral philosophy, political economy, modern history, general jurisprudence, and the laws of England; and another new honour tripos in the natural sciences, the examinations in which were to be in anatomy, comparative anatomy, physiology, chemistry, botany, and geology.

Although much was expected from the influence and position of Prince Albert the university authorities scarcely looked forward to such a sweeping reform, but its advantages were too obvious to be ignored or permanently neglected.

Though in 1857 only ten years had elapsed since the Prince had, so to speak, given a fresh impetus and multiplied the power of the great educational machinery of the university, how much had happened in that decade! So rapidly did events march that much of the lighter literature, the art, the science, and the industry of the time that had preceded it were already regarded as old-fashioned even if they had not been superseded. Of course the fame of the great writers in prose and poetry as well as the works of great artists and inventors remained permanent monuments of human history and progress; and the venerable laureate, Wordsworth, may be said to have been a living representative of the poetry that was to endure, and of the great personalities that were passing from mortal sight. One of the latest, if not the very latest of his efforts, was to provide the ode to be sung at the installation of the Prince as chancellor of the university. There was much of the old sweet rhythmical charm, much of the fire that glowed rather than flamed in this fine poem—the concluding verse of which was:—

“Albert in thy race we cherish  
A nation’s strength, that will not perish  
While England’s sceptred line  
True to the King of kings is found;  
Like that wise ancestor of thine  
Who threw the Saxon shield o’er Luther’s life,  
When first above the yells of bigot strife  
The trumpet of the Living Word  
Assumed a voice of deep portentous sound  
From gladdened Elbe to startled Tiber heard.”



Mr. Alfred Tennyson had been appointed poet-laureate in 1850, after Wordsworth had passed away at the age of eighty. We have already seen that the Queen when she was the Princess Victoria had known Southey, and her tastes and sympathies were doubtless with poets who, like those of what used to be called "the Lake School," expressed pure human and domestic emotions, and while maintaining simplicity of diction could rise to a certain rhythmical swing and grandeur in dealing with great subjects. The sweet simple idylls of Wordsworth were probably much to the royal taste, and Tennyson's "Miller's Daughter" and other poems of his were favourites with the Queen, so that there never was much doubt on whom the choice would fall when the author of the "Excursion" had sung his latest song on earth and his harp hung silent on the wall. Leigh Hunt had been spoken of as a candidate for the laureateship, and had written some graceful verses on the birth of the Princess Royal and on other occasions; but it would have been strange to have appointed as laureate the "libeller" of the Queen's uncle. Hunt was now an aged man, and though he had retired from political strife there was apparent a certain peculiar restraint which gave an artificial air to his expressions of courtly aspiration. He seemed to be always conscious of probable inconsistency. Though there were several aspirants who were highly endowed with the poetic faculty, there were none so evidently suitable for the post as Alfred Tennyson. Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, it was thought, would worthily have represented all that was great and all that was graceful in the poetic literature of the time, and it would perhaps have been a significant mark of appreciation for the Queen to have placed the laurel crown on the brows of a woman who was undoubtedly the most eminent poetess in this country, if not in



all Europe; but it is possible that to the Queen, as to many other readers, much of her verse seemed to have caught something of the difficult measure and the occasional appearance of obscurity which must have made a good deal of her husband's work unintelligible to six out of ten even of fairly cultured persons.

The quality, vigour, and directness of much of Tennyson's verse was well exemplified in the dedication of the first volume of his poems, in which with exquisitely suggested homage for the Royal grace which

To one of less desert allows  
This laurel greener from the brows  
Of him that utter'd nothing base;

the new laureate sounds in firm and certain tones and rhythmic measure the meaning of the popular voice.

Take, Madam, this poor book of song;  
For tho' the faults were thick as dust  
In vacant chambers, I could trust  
Your kindness. May you rule us long,

And leave us rulers of your blood  
As noble till the latest day!  
May children of our children say,  
"She wrought her people lasting good;

"Her court was pure, her life serene;  
God gave her peace; her land reposed;  
A thousand claims to reverence closed  
In her as Mother, Wife, and Queen.

"And statesmen at her council met  
Who knew the seasons when to take  
Occasion by the hand, and make  
The bounds of freedom wider yet

“ By shaping some august decree,  
Which kept her throne unshaken still,  
Broad-based upon her people's will,  
And compass'd by the inviolate sea.”

This was both fine and true in tone, for the Queen was always in right-down earnest about political and state affairs; so much so that she could not quite apprehend the comparative indifference with which even vehement attacks and disputes in Parliament were regarded by the several antagonists when they were out of the arena of political or party strife. This had been rather amusingly illustrated when early in the session of 1847 Lord John Russell prepared to appoint new and permanent councillors for the Duchy, which should not be dependent on any change of government. When the motion came on in the Upper House and the names of the proposed members were mentioned, it was violently opposed as an attempt to secure the support of the Peelites, and Lord Campbell was much abused by Lord Stanley and Lord Brougham. The canny and humorous old Lord Chief-justice cared very little for that, as may be seen by a letter to his brother published in his *Life*, where he says, “I have been to Osborne attending a council. Had it not been so bitterly cold I should have enjoyed it. I had a private audience of her Majesty and when my business was over she said: ‘How you were attacked in the House of Lords the other night, Lord Campbell—most abominably!’ I gave a courtier-like answer, without telling her Majesty of the dinner I am to give on Saturday to Lord Stanley and Lord Brougham, for she was extremely angry with them, and she would not understand the levity with which such matters are treated among politicians of opposite parties.” Probably had her Majesty known that almost immediately after the attack and the

debate honest John had invited those who took a prominent part in it to dinner to meet both the old and the new councillors, she might have been not only surprised but somewhat gravely doubtful of the sincerity of the opponents; but the dinner party came off, and the previous combatants were as friendly, familiar, and convivial as possible, Brougham shaking hands with the premier and calling him "John," and Stanley calling out to Sir James Graham—"Graham, how are you?" It was eleven o'clock before the party broke up, and Lord Lyndhurst, as he stepped into his carriage, was heard to say to Brougham: "I wish we had such a council as this once a month."

It was at this party that Brougham, alluding to Campbell's *Lives of the Chief-Justices*, related a supposed speech of Sir Charles Wetherell's complaining that "death is now attended with a fresh terror, from Campbell writing the life of a deceased person as soon as the breath was out of his body." It may be remembered that when this dinner took place Campbell, Brougham, and Lyndhurst were all old men.

We have already alluded to Lord Campbell's visits to the palace, and though it may be taken for granted that honest John was discreet enough to say nothing unbecoming, and, indeed, rather prided himself on his art as a courtier, there was always a plainness of speech and manner which seems to have amused or even attracted the Queen. One of his letters, referring to his dining at Buckingham Palace, is very amusing. It was in 1847, at the time that the distress both in England and Ireland was causing great anxiety, and the Queen, in sympathy with the general feeling, had limited the allowance of bread in the palace to a pound for each person, and had caused only secondary flour to be used in the kitchen. The festivities at the palace at this time were mostly of a very quiet, but at the

same time of a lively kind; usually a dinner party and a dance afterwards, in which her Majesty joined with a good deal of spirit, as though to encourage cheerfulness. About the dinner at which he was present Lord Campbell wrote to his brother: "You will see by the 'Court Circular' that Mary, Loo, and I dined at the palace on Saturday. . . . There is not much to tell to gratify your curiosity. On our arrival a little before eight we were shown into the picture-gallery, where the company assembled. Burnes, who acted as master of the ceremonies, arranged what gentleman should take what lady. He said: 'Dinner is ordered to be on the table at a quarter past eight; but I bet you, the Queen will not be here till twenty to twenty-five minutes after. She always thinks she can dress in ten minutes, but she takes about double the time.' True enough it was nearly twenty-five minutes after eight before she appeared. She shook hands with the ladies, bowed to the gentlemen, and proceeded to the *salle à manger*. I had to take in Lady Emily de Burgh, and was third on her Majesty's right, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and my partner being between us. The greatest delicacy we had was some very nice oat-cakes. There was a Highland piper standing behind her Majesty's chair, but he did not play as at 'state dinners.' We had likewise some Edinburgh ale. The Queen and the ladies withdrawing, Prince Albert came over to her side of the table, and we remained behind about a quarter of an hour; but we rose within the hour from the time of our sitting down. A snuff-box was twice carried round and offered to all the gentlemen; Prince Albert, to my surprise, took a pinch. On returning to the gallery we had tea and coffee. The Queen then came up and talked to me. . . . She does the honours of her palace with infinite sweetness and grace, and considering what she is both in public

and domestic life, I do not think she is sufficiently loved and respected. . . . A dance followed; the Queen chiefly delighted in a romping sort of country-dance called the *Tempête*. She withdrew a little before twelve and we went off to Lady Palmerston's."

The allusion of the "master of the ceremonies" to her Majesty's usual miscalculation of the time it would take to make her toilette for dinner receives an amusing confirmation from a sentence or two in a letter written to her by the Prince while he was at Liverpool, where he had engaged to lay the foundation-stone of the new docks. "I write hoping these lines, which go by the evening post, may reach you by breakfast time to-morrow. As I write you will be making your evening toilette, and not be ready in time for dinner. I must set about the same task, and not, let me hope, with the same result. . . . I must conclude, and inclose by way of close (*schlicsse zum Schluss*) two touching objects, a flower and a programme of the procession."

It is not easy to make state assemblies very lively, and though the Queen and the Prince Consort desired to maintain a general sense of cheerfulness, the less ceremonious occasions were doubtless more in accordance with those domestic amusements to which her Majesty turned with satisfaction after the grandeur of royal receptions and splendid entertainments. While staying in London visits to the opera and the best dramatic performances, and occasionally to some special concert, were among the pleasant recreations of the season, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean were frequently honoured by the presence of royalty at the Princess' Theatre, or were requested (commanded) to appear with some of their company to perform at Windsor. That the Queen and the Prince should have been constant and discriminating in their encouragement of

musical performances was to be expected, for they were both accomplished in the art, in which they found solace and delight. Nobody was surprised to hear that the Queen, like the rest of the world in London, was enchanted with the singing of Jenny Lind, who had been one of the performers in the concert at the palace of the King of Prussia at Bruhl, but did not appear here till she had begun to make a great reputation abroad. In one of her Majesty's letters to King Leopold we read: "Jenny Lind is quite a remarkable phenomenon. Her acting alone is worth going to see, and the *piano* way she has of singing is, as Lablache says, unlike anything he ever heard. He is a good and impartial judge, and he is quite enchanted and says she is wholly unlike anyone else. There is a purity in her singing and acting which is quite indescribable."

Among the festivities and amusements in which her Majesty and the Prince took part in the Exhibition year may be noted the performance of Rachel in "Andromaque," the farewell performance of Mr. Macready, and a dramatic performance at Devonshire House on behalf of the "Guild of Literature and Art," a scheme which was intended to provide a complete organization for the relief of distressed members of the professions with which it was associated. The play selected was "Not so Bad as we Seem," and Charles Dickens, Douglas Jerrold, John Forster, and other representatives of literature and the drama, appeared in it. Though the intention was good and the claims of its promoters were considerable, this society did not eventually achieve any permanent success. It seemed as though neither influential patronage nor the donations and subscriptions that frequently provide for the maintenance of other benevolent associations, could be counted on when the needs and vicissitudes of those who are in the ranks of literature were advocated.



Among the entertainments which interested and amused the royal family was that of Mr. Albert Smith, whose "Ascent of Mont Blanc" was keenly relished by the Prince Consort, who appreciated the genial humour and happy persiflage of the author of "Mr. Ledbury."<sup>1</sup> In a letter from Prince Albert to Baron Stockmar on the 12th of September, 1857, we read that the Prince of Wales, who had then been to Konigswinter, was at Chamounix, and had visited the Mer de Glace under the guidance of Albert Smith, who happened to be at the village, and whose presence there was always hailed by the inhabitants with sincere if not absolutely disinterested pleasure.

Prince Alfred (the Duke of Edinburgh) had in the previous year expressed his desire to prepare to enter the navy, and though he was but twelve years old, it was thought desirable that he should at once commence studies that would be particularly directed to this end. These could only be uninterruptedly pursued away from home, as they were necessarily independent of the ordinary routine of family instruction, and he was therefore placed in a separate establishment under the care of Lieutenant Cowell (afterwards Sir John Cowell, K.C.B., master of her Majesty's household), a young officer of Engineers who had done excellent service in the Baltic and the Crimea as the adjutant of Sir Harry Jones. This accomplished officer, who was only twenty-three years of age and had received a highly scientific training, was most strongly recommended as governor and tutor for the young prince; and Prince Albert, after careful inquiry and consideration, was able to say: "By

<sup>1</sup> One of the latest occasions on which the writer of these lines met Mr. Albert Smith was that of a dramatic performance at the Lyceum Theatre by members of the Savage Club, in which they both took part. It was for a charitable object, and was under the patronage of the Queen, who was present with the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, and other members of the royal family.

this a great load has been taken off my heart. Cowell comes to us at once to learn the working of our system, and will afterwards take up his quarters with Affie in the Royal Lodge at Windsor Park."

From Windsor Lodge the prince went in the autumn with his tutor to Alverbank, a house which had belonged to the Right Hon. Wilson Croker, near Portsmouth, and the tutor then prospectively engaged for Prince Arthur (the Duke of Connaught) was Captain Elphinstone of the Engineers (afterwards Sir Howard Elphinstone, K.C.B.), who had greatly distinguished himself at Sebastopol. The independent instruction of the young Prince Arthur, the child who was much beloved by all the royal family for his genial temper and engaging qualities, was not to commence till the first months of 1859, when the Prince of Wales was to part from his tutor Mr. Gibbs, who was succeeded as "governor," when the prince went to Cambridge, by General the Hon. Robert Bruce, brother of Lord Elgin. Thus the weighty responsibility of the after education of the three elder princes was so far satisfactorily met; and it may be mentioned here that though Prince Arthur was but nine years old when he commenced his studies with his tutor, that gentleman continued to superintend his education till it was completed and the prince had reached the age of manhood.

While these changes were being provided for, the betrothal of the Princess Royal, and her approaching marriage with the young Prince Frederick William of Prussia, was a domestic event of great importance to every member of the royal family. The official announcement to Parliament of the intended marriage was made in May, 1857, and to her Majesty's expression of confidence that she would be enabled to make such a



H P H  
ALBERT EDWARD  
PRINCE OF WALES

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from a photo taken in 1882  
E. Voigt Hamburg



provision for her eldest daughter as would be suitable to the dignity of the crown and the honour of the country, a generous response was given. The government proposal to settle a dowry of £40,000 and an annuity of £4000 on the princess was carried in the House of Commons by a majority of 328 to 14; and though the wish of Prince Albert that this first occasion should have been taken as the opportunity for settling once and for all the provision to be made for the royal children, did not meet with the support of the cabinet, such loyalty and good-will was expressed on all sides that his Royal Highness thought he had reason to believe that his proposition—which had been accepted and formulated by Lord Palmerston as the chancellor of the exchequer—might have been carried out, and future application to Parliament on behalf of the royal family avoided.

These domestic arrangements demanded the attention of the Queen, but both her Majesty and Prince Albert were also anxiously employed in serious matters of state policy. The Crimean War was at an end. The treaty of peace had been concluded by the plenipotentiaries of Russia, France, Austria, Sardinia, and Great Britain, who assembled in Paris, and most of the provisions which were made had been discussed and decided with comparatively little difficulty—with one exception. That exception was the manner in which the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, and as a consequence Servia, were to be dealt with. The result of a renewed and prolonged discussion was that the conference could only agree upon the principles upon which the settlement of the Principalities should be effected, and that the manner of their settlement should be left to a supplementary convention. The suzerainty of the Porte in those countries was to be acknowledged, but the



Principalities were to enjoy their existing privileges and immunities, the Porte engaging, under the guarantee of the contracting powers, to preserve their independent and national administration, with full liberty of worship, of legislation, of commerce, and of navigation.

The Emperor of the French had professed to be concerned for the interests of the people of Wallachia and Moldavia, whose ardent desire, he had heard, was for the union of these principalities under a foreign prince who would respect the Ottoman suzerainty. Whether this information, or the impression that it had produced on the mind of Louis Napoleon, had been in some degree due to indirect suggestions which originated in Russian diplomacy, it is impossible to say; but it is quite certain that no sooner had the peace negotiations been settled than the czar, whose predecessor had so detested the notion of an Anglo-French alliance, was not unwilling to entertain and to promote a friendly understanding with the "*parvenu*" to whom no other title than "cousin" could be extended by the Emperor of Russia, when other sovereigns were admitted to the rank of "brothers" and "sisters."

Lord Clarendon had pointed out to the French emperor that though the plan he proposed might be best for the Principalities if it could be carried out, the difficulties in the way appeared to be insuperable. Any foreign prince willing to take the place must belong either to the Roman or the Greek religion. If the former, the Greek priests and people of the Principalities would be opposed to him, and he would have to rely on Russian aid; if the latter, he would naturally have almost entire sympathy with Russia, and the experiment would end in establishing another kingdom not unlike Greece, but with more disastrous results to Europe. Turkey would in a few



years find herself without the guaranteed suzerainty, because the Principalities would become independent and her power and prestige in Europe would be at an end. Austria no less than Turkey objected to the union of the Principalities, and though Louis Napoleon afterwards suggested that they might be united under a prince in Austrian interests, it is by no means certain that the proposition was sincere, unless the French emperor, acting under the impulse of one of those dreams of statecraft by which he was often influenced, thought that by aiding in such an arrangement he might make a stipulation that the iron heel of Austria should be lifted from Italy to the advantage of France, which might then claim as a reward the territory of Savoy and Nice. This territory he afterwards acquired by a sudden and sanguinary war on behalf of "Italian independence," in alliance with Victor Emanuel, the King of Sardinia, who thereafter exchanged the sovereignty of Piedmont for that of united Italy.

That some crafty, undeveloped scheme was at work in the mind of Louis Napoleon was evident enough; but the one unchanging element in his plans appears to have been loyalty to the British alliance. He could offer England nothing, for he must have known that Nicholas of Russia had offered or had more than suggested the cession of Egypt and Candia on the demolition of the Turkish empire; and he knew very well that neither the Queen nor British statesmen would listen complacently to any attempt to purchase coadjutors in his scheme for rearranging the European frontier, or changing the nationalities of the countries on the map. Austria would not listen to the proposal that the Principalities should be united under a ruler provided, or at least approved, by herself. She was, in some respects, as much as England interested in preserving a friendly

neutrality under the Ottoman guarantees, and the guarantees of the European states, that her own Eastern territories might be secure from Russian aggression, and it was not very likely that with both hands full of Italy and Hungary she would covet a position which might by some mischance embroil her in hostilities with Turkey, or probably with the powers that had guaranteed the claims of Turkey.

The Emperor of the French detested Austria for some reason, perhaps because he regarded that country as the bitterest enemy of his uncle; perhaps from a sentiment—for he had had some experience in his early days, when he and his brother had joined the ranks of the Italians against Austrian tyranny—of the remorseless cruelty of the military governors and the brutal insensibility of Austrian officials.

At all events he was more inclined to listen to those overtures which the Emperor of Russia was ready to make or to accept, and he went so far as to make a direct suggestion to our representative in Paris that an alliance should be formed by England, France, and Russia, leaving out Austria. This could not be listened to for a moment, as Austria had been loyal to her engagements and to her friendly, though not active, alliance with England during the Crimean struggle and at other times, and had been one of the great powers represented at the Paris conference. It was evident that while Louis Napoleon was endeavouring to set England against Austria, the Russian emperor was insinuating to him a dissolution of the alliance with England; but this was futile. He appears never to have swerved from his determination to endeavour to maintain a good understanding between the two countries. He repeatedly expressed assurances of regard and friendship for the Queen, Prince Albert, and the royal children; and these

sentiments he asserted at a time when his doing so was likely to expose him to the opposition of a military Anglophobic party in France. Still there was teeming in his brain some imperfect or impracticable scheme by which he could extend not only the power and influence, but the territorial possessions of the French empire. It was perhaps from this direction that the baleful shadow which he called the prestige of his uncle fell upon his path. He was outspoken, too, for though he brooded over his idea, he talked of it with some freedom to Lord Clarendon, to whom he suggested the scheme of a great congress of the European powers to rectify frontiers and make a fresh distribution of territory. Being reminded that the proposals for rectification would probably include demands or expectations that would be more likely to lead to general hostilities than to a general agreement, he did not then pursue the subject, but continued to ponder on it, without, of course, any immediate result. It should be remembered, however, that he was ready to give the aid of the moral weight of France in the settlement of the difficulty of the claims of Prussia to Neuchâtel, and that these claims were settled—after a conference had declared the suzerainty of Prussia in that canton—by another conference, in which the matter was amicably settled by Switzerland buying out the King of Prussia for a million francs, and restoring the canton to the full liberty of the Swiss Republic.

The Russian Grand-duke Constantine paid a visit to the Emperor of the French, to which the latter declared no political significance was to be attached; and as the grand-duke had signified a desire to visit England, and the Queen had caused it to be made known to him that he would be no unwelcome guest at Osborne, nothing was to be said, though all the parties concerned were perhaps a little on their guard. It was distinctly

stated, and Lord Clarendon confirmed it, that the grand-duke's visit to Paris and to London was for the purpose of interesting financiers in Russian railways, and that what he saw in France led him to believe that he could depend with more certainty on English enterprise and capital, while, at the same time, by inducing people here to embark large sums of money in Russian railway securities, any future hostilities between the two countries would be rendered less probable. It was observed, moreover, that Russia very suddenly showed a disposition to propitiate the British government, and this was accounted for by the confidence with which the country supported Lord Palmerston. He had taken up the premiership at a time when the prosecution of the war with vigour and promptitude was necessary, and the nation had drawn a deep breath of relief when it was known that he had formed a working government. Under his able guidance the struggle had been brought to an end, and the honour as well as the interests of England had been maintained by the terms of the treaty that had been concluded. For these conspicuous services the Queen had conferred upon him the order of the Garter, and he had been gratified and even deeply affected by many gracious expressions of her Majesty's confidence. There was much work to do, and only a prime-minister capable of maintaining a confident, cheerful, and determined temper, and able also to count on the support of the country, could have carried out a policy which demanded the utmost vigilance and constant strenuous exertion. In the midst of foreign intrigues and complications, and almost before the conclusion of the tremendous struggle before Sebastopol, there was the flickering of the lurid light of mutiny in India, and a prospect of a continuance of serious hostilities in China, where the action of the government in precipitating a war and making arrogant demands

on what were alleged to be mistaken and unnecessary grounds was made the ground of an adverse motion, proposed by Mr. Cobden in parliament. On a division the government was in a minority of sixteen. It was a question on which politicians of all shades could vote as they pleased, and Conservatives, Peelites, and Liberals were divided in opinion; nor was it likely that the representatives of the two former could establish a government even if they had the opportunity. The opportunity was not given them. Mr. Disraeli, perhaps mistaking the popular view, had at the close of the debate taunted Lord Palmerston with complaining that there had been a conspiracy of members of parties, and had challenged him to appeal to the country instead of complaining to it. The premier took him at his word and dissolved parliament, and in the subsequent elections his opponents were defeated; 189 new members were returned, and with a majority in favour of the government which placed the noble lord more securely than before at the head of affairs, and enabled him to form a stronger cabinet.

That the demonstration made in the elections in favour of Palmerston had been closely watched by Russia was believed to be proved by her immediate change of policy and the comparative respect and deference of her diplomatic manner towards this country; but the situation was somewhat complicated, and if the Queen had not been convinced of the advantages of preserving under all circumstances a frank and friendly disposition, and of refusing to allow social or conventional confidence to be distorted into secret understandings, she might have been much perturbed by the intelligence that the grand-duke would present himself at Osborne, and that the Emperor of the French was suggesting that he and the empress would deem it a great pleasure to be permitted to pay her Majesty a friendly



visit of a private and entirely unofficial character at the same delightful retreat. The expectation of these visits (which were of course not to be at the same time) was none the less exciting because the Archduke Maximilian of Austria was already on his way hither to receive the congratulations of the Queen and Prince Albert on his engagement to their cousin the Princess Charlotte of Belgium.

The position as set forth by Prince Albert in a letter to Stockmar, which showed how clearly he appreciated the situation, was that in France there was much dissatisfaction with England because of the objections which were entertained here to any disturbance of territorial boundaries in Italy as defined by treaty, and because of the comments of the British press on the apparent approximation between France and Russia. At the same time the attitude of France towards Austria was unmistakably hostile; the approximation of Russia and France having hostility to Austria for its aim. The anxiety of Louis Napoleon to propitiate Prussia in the settlement of the claims on Neuchâtel, and a visit which he had made to Berlin to return that of Prince Frederick William to Paris—to whom he thereby gave precedence over the Archduke Maximilian, whose visit to Paris had been before that of the Prussian prince, and should therefore have been first returned—showed a desire to make sure of Prussia before breaking with Austria.

During these complications the Russian ambassador in London was endeavouring to arrange a meeting between the Emperors Napoleon and Alexander at Berlin, and there were sudden cordial overtures from Russia to England, including an offer to help us in China. These symptoms were enough to raise grave suspicions, if not to lead to serious convictions that while a friendly understanding with England and Prussia was



considered indispensable, the alliance of the four powers was sought for the purpose of altering territorial conditions at the expense of Austria and the Porte, especially with regard to the Principalities.

Such considerations were enough to cause her Majesty some uneasiness lest there should be an indirect attempt to convert a friendly visit into an opportunity for political intrigue; but, possibly owing to the entire frankness and cordial simplicity with which Prince Albert made the questions the subject of conversation and discussion, and the equally friendly manner in which the French emperor proposed or responded to them, these anxieties were found to be groundless.

As it happened the Russian grand-duke paid only "a flying visit" to Osborne, whither he made the voyage from Cherbourg in her Majesty's yacht, and his stay lasted only twenty-four hours. Lord Palmerston was there to meet him, and (consequently?) his visit assumed no political importance. There was just time for the Queen to take him for a short cruise to see the British fleet at Spithead on the following day, and he departed in the evening. Two or three days afterward the court returned to London, and there the Queen received the Archduke Maximilian, who, as we have seen, was present at the christening of the Princess Beatrice at Buckingham Palace. Both her Majesty and Prince Albert entertained a great regard for him, because of his amiable character and his liberal opinions, no less than for his cordial liking for everything English; and their friendship was increased by the knowledge that he had been betrothed to the Princess Charlotte, daughter of the King of the Belgians, so that the ties of relationship were to form an additional bond of union. It was a pleasant party which met at luncheon after the ceremony at Buckingham Palace, when the

Queen sat between the Archduke and Prince Frederick William, and both the affianced brides were present. "When we were at luncheon," the Queen wrote, "he (the archduke) said to me: 'I hope it is a good omen for the future that on this occasion England sits between Austria and Prussia'—in which hope I sincerely join."

Another marriage, in the negotiations of which Prince Albert had been requested to interest himself, was that of the Princess Stephanie, daughter of the Prince of Hohenzollern, with Don Pedro, King of Portugal. Prince Hohenzollern in the following year became first minister of Prussia, a position to which he was called by the Prince of Prussia, who had been appointed regent during the mental aberration of the king.

The claims upon the Queen and Prince Albert were numerous and exacting, and among the more important of these was that of the conference on National Education, a subject in which the Prince Consort took an earnest interest. The urgent necessity for some formal system of popular education was acknowledged, but endeavours to establish any really national scheme was confronted by what was called the religious difficulty. That schools should be opened in which the children were to receive no religious instruction was repugnant to most of the religious bodies. At the same time it was contended that while Nonconformists would not look with favour upon any system which introduced doctrines repulsive to many good churchmen and denounced by other Christian communities, many of the clergy repudiated the proposition that even a simple reading and verbal explanation of the Gospels and the use of the Lord's Prayer could be left in the hands of a layman.

It need scarcely be said that Lord Ashley (afterwards Earl of Shaftesbury) and the earnest and self-denying people, many

of them youths of both sexes, who responded to his appeals to found Sunday and evening schools where destitute children, or the poorest arabs of the streets, might be received and taught and cared for, had already solved the problem. "Ragged Schools," as they were called, that the name might characterize their true intention, were already growing in number and influence. They were becoming centres of beneficence in many of the worst neighbourhoods and among the most abandoned inhabitants of London and some other large towns.

The organization was called the Ragged School Union, and so devoted were its supporters and so successful their efforts, that by the end of 1858, when the society had been in existence fifteen years, the committee reported that they had in connection with the movement 110 day-schools with 14,827 scholars, and 130 week-evening schools with 8662 scholars, while some of these children and others attended 137 Sunday-schools where above 21,000 assembled weekly. The schools had become the head-quarters for various kinds of philanthropic effort, the establishment of mothers' sewing meetings, penny banks, charitable distribution of food and clothing, and evening treats and entertainments. In 1857 and 1858 nearly 4000 of the elder children had been reared and placed in situations, nine shoe-black brigades had been formed, brigades of street-sweepers and orderlies were also organized out of their ranks, and fifteen night refuges had been established for homeless and destitute juveniles.

The Ragged School Union doubtless averted many of the evil consequences that were then threatening the community, because of the ignorance and vice to which the children of the poorest part of the population had been abandoned, and it also showed that some national system of education might be adopted by merging sectarian differences in the more important

considerations of providing instruction that would include simple religious teaching, without touching those doctrinal differences which were made into obstacles to the adoption of a broad and general basis for imparting the knowledge for lack of which the little ones of the great centres of population were perishing; even as they were physically starving for want of the common food and raiment which the supporters of the schools endeavoured to assist them in obtaining. The "voluntary principle" was so far triumphant, and a number of charitable agencies followed the example by providing means for alleviating ignorance and distress without sectarian distinctions.

In these efforts and in practical endeavours to improve the homes of the poor to which the Earl of Shaftesbury also devoted himself, Prince Albert took a deep and intelligent interest. He was a firm believer in the value of individual as well as of combined effort, and held that it was the duty of everyone to endeavour to improve the condition of those who were nearest. At Windsor he took a personal interest in the means of providing instruction for the labourers on the royal estate, and used to examine the copy-books of the men who were learning to write, and, as we have seen, he showed practically what might be done by providing decent cottages at Osborne and Balmoral, and by advocating the reconstruction of houses and the erection of model dwellings in neighbourhoods which had become nests of disease and degradation. He was convinced that such efforts could be made remunerative as well as philanthropic, and that men of kindly hearts and clear business faculties could, if they would, profitably invest money in building houses for labouring people, where decency and domestic comfort would be secured. Many employers of labour in different parts of the country put these declarations to the test, and provided sound and conve-

nient dwellings for their workpeople at rents which were little if any higher than those paid for wretched and unsanitary lodgings or hovels misnamed cottages; while the erection of large model dwellings in London, if not at first successful, brought into prominence schemes for relieving overcrowded neighbourhoods, and for providing for tenants evicted from the "slums" for the purpose of carrying out metropolitan improvements.

Closely associated with this subject was the proposal to elevate the social amusements of the people by providing places in which they might find recreation and dispose of their leisure pleasantly and rationally. The Prince had at a very early date been painfully impressed with the lack of real hearty cheerfulness in the demeanour of the members of the poorer classes on holiday occasions, and he believed that the want of resorts like the German public gardens, where men with their wives and children could go and listen to music and smoke their pipes, and obtain simple refreshments at small expense, was one reason for the general want of real enjoyment. He felt that resorts of a simpler and more immediately enlivening description than mechanics' institutes, public libraries, reading-rooms, and museums must be provided for the labourer who seeks temporary amusement. The same notion had been entertained and advocated by others, but they had scarcely ventured to put it so plainly as Prince Albert did. They knew, as everybody must know who is acquainted with the districts where the dreary tenements inhabited by the poorest classes are huddled together without the means of light and warmth and cleanliness, that the public-house and the gin-shop are attractive by the contrast that they present to gloomy streets and courts and the depressing influence of wretched and dilapidated dwellings, and we have recently seen that much improvement has been effected by the



establishment of working-men's clubs, held in decent and fairly-appointed rooms of some large house rented for the purpose. But more was and is still wanted—places where men and women and even children may meet for social enjoyment at very little expense. The Prince went so far as to say that there should be “a reformed public-house,” where men might smoke and yet be able to take their wives and children. The women of England, he said, were excellent wives and mothers. Now they had to do their best to keep their husbands from the public-houses; with such an institution they might encourage them to go there, and go with them; but he doubted seriously whether any scheme which aimed at the mingling of class with class would be successful, for the lower classes would always feel a restraint in the presence of those much above them in social position.

On the question of a practical system of national education he had thought long and deeply, and when he presided at the conference at Willis's Rooms he showed at once that he was familiar with the difficulties that must present themselves and should be overcome.

It was immediately evident that he had not “got up” the subject for the occasion, and he stated in his usual concise and penetrating manner those aspects of the question which were, and are still, compelling attention. “We find on the one hand the wish to see secular and religious instruction separated and the former organized as an intimate and inherent right to which each member of society has a claim, and which ought not to be denied to him if he refuse to take along with it the inculcation of a particular dogma to which he objects as unsound; while we see on the other hand the doctrine asserted that no education can be sound that does not rest on religious instruction, and



that religious truth is too sacred to be modified and tampered with, even in its minutest deductions, for the sake of procuring a general agreement."

The Prince reminded his audience that they had not met on that occasion to discuss these differences, or he would not have been able to take the chair, as he would have thought it inconsistent with the position that he occupied and the duty he owed to the Queen and the country at large. There were those there, however, who met him on a neutral ground, on which their varied talents and abilities could be brought to bear in communion upon the common object. They might well be proud of results already achieved by their rival efforts. Since the beginning of the century the population had doubled; the number of schools, both public and private, had been multiplied fourteen times. In 1801 there were in England and Wales 2876 public schools and 487 private schools; in 1851, the year of the census, 15,518 public and 30,524 private schools, giving instruction in all to 2,144,378 scholars; of whom about 1,422,982 belonged to public schools. He hoped that these were only instalments of what would be done. Of the 4,908,696 children in England and Wales between the ages of three and fifteen, only 2,046,848 attended school at all, while 2,861,848 received no instruction whatever. Of the children attending school only about 600,000 were nine years of age. These were startling facts, and no extension of the means of education would be of any avail until that evil which lay at the root of the whole question should be removed, and the country should become awakened to its existence, and prepared to meet it energetically.

The object of the conference was to impress this upon the public mind, as they must appeal to public opinion if they would achieve any lasting or beneficial result. The Prince went on to

say: "You, gentlemen, will greatly add to the services which you have already rendered to this noble cause, if you will prepare public opinion by your inquiry into this state of things, and by your discussing in your sections the causes of it as well as the remedies that may lie within your reach. This will be no easy matter; but even if your labours should not result in the adoption of any immediate practical steps, you will have done great good in preparing for them. It will probably happen that in this instance, as in most others, the cause that produces the evil will be more easily detected than its remedy; and yet a just appreciation of the former must ever be the first and essential condition of the discovery of the latter. You will probably trace the cause of our social condition to a state of ignorance and lethargic indifference on the subject among the parents generally; but the root of the evil will, I suspect, also be found to extend into that field upon which the political economist exercises his activity; I mean the labour market, demand and supply. To dissipate that ignorance and rouse from that lethargy may be difficult; but with the united and earnest efforts of all who are the friends of the working-classes it ought, after all, to be only a question of time. What measures can be brought to bear on the other root of the evil is a more delicate question, and will require the nicest care in handling, for there you cut into the very quick of the working-man's condition. His children are not only his offspring, to be reared for a future independent position, but they constitute part of his productive power, and work with him for the staff of life. The daughters especially are the handmaids of the house, the assistants of the mother, the nurses of the younger children, the aged, and the sick. To deprive the labouring family of their help would be almost to paralyse its domestic existence. On the other hand, carefully collected

statistics reveal to us the fact, that while 600,000 children between the ages of three and fifteen are absent from school, but known to be employed, no less than 2,200,000 are not at school, where absence cannot be traced to any ascertained employment or other legitimate cause. You will have to work, then, on the minds and hearts of the parents, to place before them the irreparable mischief which they inflict on those who are intrusted to their care by keeping them from the light of knowledge, to bring home to their convictions that it is their duty to exert themselves for their children's education, bearing in mind at the same time that it is not only their most sacred duty but also their highest privilege. Unless they work with you, your work, our work, will be vain; but you will not fail, I feel sure, in obtaining their co-operation if you remind them of their duty to their God and Creator.

"Man alone is born into this world with faculties far nobler than the other creatures, reflecting the image of Him who has willed that there should be beings on earth to know and worship Him, but endowed with the power of self-determination, and having reason given them for their guide. Man can develop his faculties, place himself in harmony with his divine prototype, and attain that happiness which is offered to him on earth, to be completed hereafter in entire union with Him through the mercy of Christ. But he can also leave these faculties unimproved, and miss his mission on earth. He will then sink to the level of the lower animals, forfeit happiness, and separate from his God, whom he did not know how to find. Gentlemen, I say no man has a right to do this; he has no right to throw off the task which is laid upon him for his happiness; it is his duty to fulfil his mission to the utmost of his power; but it is our duty, the duty of those whom Providence has removed from

this awful struggle and placed beyond this fearful danger, manfully, unceasingly, and untiringly to aid by advice, assistance, and example the great bulk of the people, who, without such aid, must almost inevitably succumb to the difficulty of their task. They will not cast from them the aiding hand, and the Almighty will bless the labours of those who work in His cause."

It is scarcely necessary to point out how the clear views and sagacious counsel expressed in this speech are characteristic alike of calm thought and of practical recognition of the difficulties that had to be surmounted in any scheme of national education. These difficulties still confront us after years during which such a scheme has been in operation, and board schools are held in large, commodious, and costly buildings erected in every district. The whole address is so illustrative of the convictions held by the Prince, and of his declaration that the time had arrived when princes must give a reason for their existence so far as their rank and station were concerned, that it is desirable to place it in the present page. The conference was held (on the 25th of June, 1857) only a few days before the title of Prince Consort was conferred on him by royal letters patent, but, as we have before noted, these did no more than endorse the title that he had already won from the state and from public opinion.

The period immediately succeeding the Crimean War was one of much public excitement, which was emphasized by widely spread distress caused by depression of trade. There were many gigantic failures of banks and commercial undertakings, and among them some which showed that fraudulent practices had been used to induce unwary investors to part with their money. Families were reduced to poverty, trade languished, and large numbers of mechanics and labourers were

in want and could not obtain employment. There were some attempts at rioting, but they were speedily suppressed; and it was evident that the real working-classes had little to do with attempts that were made to work mischief by breaking windows and threatening violence in the streets, though there were numerous "demonstrations" of a more orderly character, —meetings in Hyde Park and elsewhere to call attention to social and political questions affecting the condition of the labouring population.

It was also a time of remarkable social development; numbers of periodicals of an instructive and a domestic character were published, and the appearance of daily penny newspapers marked a new era in political education. This change was greatly due to the abolition (in 1855) of the remaining stamp duty of a penny on every newspaper. In the early part of the century the government stamp had represented a duty of fourpence, and there was also a duty on every advertisement, which was remitted along with three-fourths of the stamp-duty, with the result that newspapers which previously had cost sixpence were sold for threepence; and when the last penny was taken off in 1855, penny papers were issued, and there was an enormous increase in the number of popular journals.

This no doubt greatly aided the efforts that were being made for the extension of education by the adoption of some general system that would solve the "sectarian" difficulty, and at the same time recognize the large balance of opinion in favour of retaining the reading of Scripture in schools. Curiously enough, the word "secular" came to be understood by a large number of people as meaning unsectarian as distinguished from doctrinal teaching, but included the desire of parents that their children should be taught to regard the authority of Scripture



as an interpretation of the divine sanction for religion and morals. At the same time several industrial schools were opened for the maintenance and instruction of destitute children, who were also taught some of the ordinary handicrafts. Not only the dwellings but the food of the poor underwent inspection, a commission having been opened by the *Lancet*—then, as now, a representative medical journal—for the purpose of emphatically calling attention to the adulteration of articles of food and drink sold in markets and by retail dealers.

It was in fact a time of general awakening, and in every direction demands were made that laws should be made or enforced for the protection and advancement of the people. Those who have observed the usual course of social and national history will not be surprised when they are reminded that it was also a period when crimes of fraud and violence were exceptionally numerous. There were many startling cases of forgery and swindling, in some instances by persons in positions of trust and for immense sums of money; and there were numerous cases of atrocious robbery, poisoning, and brutal assault, including that known as garroting, by which lurking cowardly ruffians half-strangled and robbed weak, elderly, or unwary people. The garroters were, or appeared to be, so numerous that timid persons were afraid to go for an evening walk, and bold ones went armed and announced their determination to shoot or otherwise maim any one who approached with nefarious intentions. For a long time there was a great deal of alarm, excitement, and indignation; but the law giving magistrates the power to sentence the garroter to be flogged as well as imprisoned was very effectual.

There were many thoughtful people who believed that these dregs of ferocity and lawlessness had been stirred to the surface



by the commotion of the war temper which was aroused during the struggle in the Crimea and before Sebastopol. It is a psychological question which need not be discussed here, but, undoubtedly, in all periods of public commotion, whether it arise from a just and righteous, a mistaken, or an unrighteous source, the fouler passions are agitated and there is mostly a calendar of crime.

It is not astonishing, then, that every stratum of society should have been deeply perturbed; for the bells had scarcely rung out to herald the confirmation of the peace, the Victoria Cross had not yet rewarded those who showed distinguished bravery amidst the strife and desolation of the Crimean campaign, when another and a deeper thrill—a thrill of horror, a beating pulse of anger and a desire for retribution—had disturbed the nation on the arrival of news of a mutiny of native troops in India and of horrible atrocities committed on the European residents.

At the same time we had another war in China on our hands, arising from an occurrence which numbers of people, including, as we have seen, a majority in parliament, declared was of itself an entirely inadequate reason for our commencing reprisals.

The Chinese commissioner of the province of Canton, an arrogant and absurdly defiant “celestial” named Yeh, was one of those who continued to pretend that the Europeans (“foreign devils” or “outer barbarians”) should not be permitted to remain within Chinese territory; and as he had been among the prominent opponents of those treaties which were made respecting the privileges of foreigners at Canton, he now gave all the assistance in his power to those who neglected or refused to observe the conditions.

It happened that a lorch or Chinese-built vessel called the *Arrow*, which appeared at Canton bearing the British flag, but manned by Chinamen, was there boarded by a party of Chinese, who, under the command of their officer, tore down the flag and carried away the crew.

Applications for redress were made by the master of the vessel and were supported by the British consul, but it had been contended that the *Arrow*, which was Chinese-built, Chinese-manned, and Chinese-owned, had been known as a pirate and smuggling vessel; and that she bore the British flag only by a right claimed under an act of the colonial legislature, referring chiefly to vessels of another class. It could not be denied that she had been registered in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance passed at Hong Kong eighteen months before, and her papers were at the consulate; but it was contended that her register had expired more than a month before the assault complained of. It was a case which possibly might have been settled without violence, if both sides had desired to preserve peace; but Commissioner Yeh, to whom the complaints were addressed, treated them with contemptuous silence or insulting abuse of the British, and as he had been largely responsible for the disregard of treaty obligations, his indifference to the appeals of British officers aroused a desire to show him that he could not continue to defy the claims with impunity. Sir John Bowring, the British plenipotentiary, called for an official conference within the walls of the city of Canton, and Commissioner Yeh took no notice of the demand except to threaten what he would do, and to incite the Chinese against the French and the English. Sir Michael Seymour, our admiral in Chinese waters, then entered the Canton River and landed troops, who fired the suburbs of the city; but as

there was no force sufficient to maintain the position and bring the Chinese to terms, Commissioner Yeh issued denunciatory proclamations against the "red-haired, foreign dogs," and offered rewards of 5000 dollars for an English or French rebel chief, or 100 dollars for a rebel barbarian alive, 30 to 50 dollars for a rebel barbarian's head, 10,000 dollars for the capture or burning of a large war-steamer, or 2000 for the destruction of one of common draught. Though Commodore Elliot and Admiral Seymour destroyed junks and forts in the river, it soon became evident that it would be necessary to send an armed force of sufficient strength to compel the observance of the agreements. The Earl of Elgin (previously Governor-general of Canada) was appointed as plenipotentiary, and by knowledge, firmness, and decision of character he was well suited for such an undertaking. He arrived at Hong Kong early in July, 1857, but at Singapore he heard news of a mutiny in India, and received a message from the governor-general asking him to send to Calcutta some of the troops that were with him on the way to China. With prompt judgment and decision he sent off part of his force at once to Calcutta, and quickly followed with the remainder. China could wait, but the danger in India was imminent, and he therefore delayed his journey to Hong Kong, where he arrived late in the autumn, and met Baron Gros, the French plenipotentiary, and a squadron sent to demand redress for the murder of French missionaries, which had already been asked for in vain. The representatives of Russia and the United States of America supported the demand for the completion at Canton of treaties made with the British, the admission of British subjects to the city, and compensation to them, and to all who were entitled to British protection, for their losses during the recent disturbances.

Yeh continued his defiant attitude, and the people of Canton were warned that in forty-eight hours the place would be bombarded, unless it were previously surrendered. As no reply was given, an assault was made on the city, the eastern half of which was soon in the hands of the French and English troops and sailors. Yeh was taken prisoner, and, until he was assured that he would not be hanged or shot, pretended to be somebody else. His reliance on the British promise was shown by the change in his demeanour directly he knew that he would be permitted to live. He resumed an arrogance that was as ludicrous as it was unavailing. His papers were seized, and though he laughed at the idea of giving up his command and of his being sent away, he was deposed from office and conveyed to Calcutta, where he died about three months afterwards.

Of course new treaties and agreements had to be drawn and ratified, and a draft of their proposed provisions was made and sent to Peking accompanied by similar despatches from the Russian and American representatives. Still no answer arrived, and in May, 1858, the united squadron sailed for the mouth of the Peiho, and passed abandoned earth-works and batteries of the enemy till they reached Tien-Tsin, a city at the entrance of the Grand Canal, on the way to Peking. This alarmed the Chinese court, who, after further treacherous delays and attempts at evasion, sent out ambassadors supposed to be authorized to ratify a treaty according to the proposed terms, viz. that ambassadors should represent either country at the courts of Peking and St. James's; a British minister and his family to be permanently resident at Peking, and Chinese consuls to be appointed. The Christian religion was to be tolerated in the country. British subjects might travel anywhere in the interior with passports signed by the consuls and countersigned by the local

authorities. Certain specified ports were to be opened for British commerce. British subjects were to make agreements for landed property at the rates prevailing among the natives. No restrictions were to be imposed on the British in employing Chinese subjects. All questions between British subjects concerning rights of property or person were to be settled by British authorities. Injuries inflicted on British subjects by Chinese were to be punished by Chinese authorities; and the crimes of British subjects to be tried and punished by their own consuls.

The articles of this treaty were signed; and Lord Elgin, who thought that British rights and liberties had thus been vindicated and secured, went to fulfil another part of his mission by visiting Japan for the purpose of opening up friendly national and commercial interests. As it turned out, however, the Chinese government continued its evasive and treacherous policy, and Mr. Bruce, Lord Elgin's brother, who was to go as British envoy to direct the completion of the treaties, and had instructions to reside at Shanghai and to keep up the right of residence at Peking by occasionally visiting it, found that when the ambassadors attempted to go thither for the ratification of the treaty, they were attacked by the batteries and forts on the river, and a number of men and officers of the small naval force which accompanied them were killed or wounded.

While these events were happening in China the condition of affairs in India was far more serious—so serious that for a time there was a wide-spread fear that our empire there was in extreme peril—and troops had to be sent off with the utmost rapidity, some of those destined for China being, as we have seen, diverted to Calcutta. Almost simultaneously with the outbreak of the mutiny General Anson, the commander-in-chief for



India, had died of cholera at Kournol, and it was determined that Sir Colin Campbell, of Crimean fame, should be sent out at once to take the vacant place. Upon being asked when he would be able to start, the gallant officer replied "To-morrow," and was off by train the next evening. Prompt and decisive measures were necessary, for it was already evident that there would be a fierce and terrible conflict, for the first revolt was in the native Bengal regiments, the men of which were of the highest caste, numbers of them being Brahmins.

We had but few effective European troops in the country, and they were stationed at places at great distances apart; while the great cities with the chief arsenals and fortresses were garrisoned with these native regiments, who for a century had been taught and disciplined into good soldiers. Many of those who had opportunities for studying the subject, and among them Prince Albert, had for some time contended that a better military system in India was essential, and that the army of the East India Company was ineffectual to maintain British authority in so great a territory, inhabited by various peoples, whose differences of race, customs, and religion prevented their cohesion, and at the same time made their allegiance uncertain. India had been the scene of successive conquests by various peoples, who had subdued and oppressed those whom they found there, but the subjugated races had neither been destroyed nor amalgamated. The system of caste had helped to keep them apart. Mahrattas and Mahometans had alike failed to establish lasting dynasties and to gain the confidence of the Hindoos, because their policy was one of persecution and confiscation, both of treasure and of lands.

British rule had, at all events for many years, been carried on upon a different principle. The native lands were guaranteed, the native religions were not interfered with, and



the government by a system of equal laws, protected the different races against each other without meddling with the internal affairs of the various populations. That system, however, could not be so interpreted as to prevent us from carrying to the various parts of the country our material civilizing influences, and forbidding the continuance of cruel and revolting customs, and therefore the condition of India had greatly changed during a comparatively short period. The inventions of science had been taken thither, railways had been established, the electric telegraph was at work amidst populations who still clung to the ancient religious rites and superstitious observances, and were slow to adopt or even to acknowledge improvements which came from an external source. It was impossible for them to ignore the advantages derived from improved methods of agriculture and of irrigation, the formation of broad roads and of railways, which gave means of rapid and easy transit between distant places. The vast proportion of the native population appreciated their deliverance from the tyranny of lawless rebels who had continually oppressed them; but there were always a number of natives who resented the interference of Europeans, and to whom the abolition of suttee (or the burning of widows on the funeral pyres of their dead husbands) and of the horrible rites that accompanied the procession of Juggernaut and the worship of idols, were evidences that the British would endeavour to trample out the native religions as the Mahometans had striven to do in former years. That these suspicions should be wrought upon by interested rulers and native princes, who feared the loss of power and of the wealth that enabled them to live in indifference and debauchery, is not surprising; nor could it have been astonishing to learn that among the high-caste Brahmins a desire for the restoration of

the influence and authority of their order should have risen to fanaticism under the excitement of false representations, which were sedulously disseminated by those who hoped to rise to power by their means, and were encouraged by the intrigues of Russian agents.

Much disaffection existed among the 119,000 natives in the Bengal army, which, though it was most efficient for service, was most prompt to revolt. The cavalry of this force was chiefly composed of bigoted Mahometans; the infantry, of the high-caste and warlike people of Rajpootana and Oude. It may therefore be understood that the latter, at any rate, shared the silent resentment felt by the people of Oude at the annexation of that kingdom by the East India Company in 1856, and suspected that their deprivation of national rights would be followed by disregard of their religious or caste superiority, if not by their actual degradation.

These and other similar causes had been for some years the motives of a conspiracy which had now widely extended, and been matured into an attempt to overthrow the British dominion in India. The particulars of the plot and the persons who originated it could not be fully discovered, but it was believed that its focus was the court of Persia, and that the principal agents for promoting it were the Mahometans of the north of India, who intended to reinstate the old king of Delhi, and to rule under his name, directly the revolt of the Bengal army should leave that territory without defence.

The immediate cause which was alleged for the sudden and ferocious mutiny is well known. The "greased cartridges" by which the high-caste Sepoys were persuaded that they were to be defiled soon became a by-word. The new Enfield rifle was to replace the Minié, and the cartridges, to be effectual, required

to be prepared with some lubricant. A report was spread among the Sepoys that these cartridges had been purposely greased with the fat of cows and swine, that the soldier who bit them should lose caste and be defiled. It was in vain that the men were assured by the government that no such grease had been employed in preparing the paper of which the cartridges were composed. The spark had been applied to a train already laid, and the mutiny burst into flame.

With the story of the horrible atrocities that followed most of us are sufficiently familiar. The treachery and fiendish malignity of Nana Sahib, the siege of Delhi, the massacre of women and children at Cawnpore, the sufferings at Lucknow, the determined struggle and deliverance, the unfaltering, invincible bravery of Wheeler, Lawrence, Outram, Havelock, Greathed, the prompt despatch of troops from England, the march of Sir Colin Campbell to the relief of the beleaguered city, and the final suppression of the mutiny, the punishment of many of the ringleaders, and the restoration of order in Oude, where a lenient proclamation and a reformed method of government removed much of the disaffection of those land-owners who had expected the confiscation of their possessions,—are among the more prominent occurrences of modern history.

In England public indignation and the desire for vengeance had sobered down, and on the whole it was felt that to make sweeping reprisals because of the punishments due to the bloodthirsty rebels who had massacred civilians and cruelly murdered English women and children, would be neither just nor wise. The latest despatch sent by the East India Company was in favour of a proclamation of less severity than that which it was supposed Lord Canning would enforce. This was an appropriate close to the governing power of the Company, whose authority

was about to end. In February, 1858, Lord Palmerston had introduced a bill for transferring the government of her Majesty's dominions in the East from the East India Company to the crown. The functions of the court of directors and the court of proprietors were to cease, and the government would be administered by a minister and a council responsible to parliament.

During the difficulties and emergencies of the Indian rebellion Lord Palmerston and Lord Clarendon were cheerfully confident that we should succeed in re-establishing our authority and overcoming the revolt without assistance. Friendly offers were made from the King of the Belgians to provide a small contingent, and we might have received other aid. The Emperor of the French showed a frank and friendly interest in our suppression of the outbreak, offered his influence in the proposal that some of our troops should go through Egypt to India, and even went so far as to say through the ambassador in London that he would make arrangements for permitting English troops to pass through France if that would expedite their journey to the seat of the rebellion. He also telegraphed congratulations to the Queen on the taking of Delhi, and generally showed himself to be desirous of remaining in the closest alliance with England.

Amidst the anxieties experienced by the Queen during the Indian mutiny, not only the constant duties of state but social and domestic engagements demanded attention.

The Queen of Holland had been on a visit to London and was fêted in courtly fashion, and almost immediately afterward Prince Albert had to make a flying visit to Brussels to be present at the marriage of the Princess Charlotte with the young Archduke Maximilian, and to return in the evening after the ceremonial, that he might not neglect the numerous despatches

and the public occupations which then pressed upon him. The royal family was then at Osborne, but not for the usual repose, for the Emperor and Empress of the French paid their expected visit, crossing in the *Reine Hortense* and landing at the private landing-place on the beach under Osborne House, where they were received by her Majesty and the Prince Consort. The guests were so simple and easy in their manners that the usual daily life of the court was not much altered, and the Queen wrote to her uncle: "Nothing could be more amiable, kind, pleasant, or *ungénant* than both majesties were. They are most agreeable guests, and as for her, we are all in love with her, and I wish you knew her. . . . Albert, who is seldom much pleased with ladies or princesses, is very fond of her and is her great ally. Persigny's devotion to the emperor, and his courage and straightforwardness . . . are very gratifying."

Persigny was a staunch supporter of the "close alliance" between France and England, and impressed the emperor with its incalculable advantage, but Louis Napoleon himself remained quite convinced of its importance, and in long and serious conversations with Prince Albert discussed the subject of the Principalities and the relative claims of Russia, Turkey, and Austria. He found that the Prince was well acquainted with every point of the situation, and able at once to touch any fallacious proposal, and every weak or impracticable suggestion. The French emperor still held to the opinion that the peace of Europe could never be lasting until the treaties of 1815 were revised, and Prince Albert shrewdly pointed out that no one would run the great risk of resettling the legal status of Europe, without great advantages to himself; and he asked if everybody was to get great advantages, where were they to come from?

Louis Napoleon then intimated that with the difficulties that



presented themselves he always thought better means to benefit the world could be found out of Europe than within it. He instanced Africa, and said that he would not follow the notion of Napoleon I. and make the Mediterranean a French lake, but that it should be a European lake, and that Spain might have Morocco, Sardinia a part of Tripoli, England Egypt, Austria a part of Syria,—*et que sais-je?* These were all magnificent countries, rendered useless to humanity and civilization by their abominable governments. France herself, he added, wanted an outlet for her turbulent spirits; but the Prince pointed out that France had for twenty-seven years possessed Algeria, a country as large as herself, and he was afraid it had not absorbed the turbulent spirits of Paris. It was not in the spirit of the French nation to colonize and build up new states, because of their inaptitude for self-government, of which the emperor himself complained.

Altogether these conversations were frank and friendly; the discussions were free, and as the lawyers say “without prejudice;” so that the Prince could speak more plainly than Palmerston or Clarendon could have done, because it was understood that no necessary consequences would follow,—no promises of policy would be implied.

No sooner had the imperial guests returned home than the emperor wrote a charming, courteous letter to her Majesty, in which was happily blended the most delicate compliment, and an appearance of sincerity which could scarcely have been simulated. “Il est si doux pour nous de penser qu'en dehors des intérêts de la politique votre Majesté et sa famille ressentent quelque affection pour nous, que je mets au premier rang de mes préoccupations le désir de mériter toujours cette auguste amitié. Je crois que, lorsqu'on a passé quelques jours dans votre intimité,



on en revient meilleur, de même, lorsqu'on a su apprécier les connaissances variées et le jugement élevé du Prince, on revient d'après de lui plus instruit et plus apte à faire le bien."

The Queen replied in terms of friendship, and with words of affection for the Empress Eugenie, who had sent a letter of regard along with that of the emperor; and Lord Cowley afterwards assured Lord Clarendon that the pleasure expressed by them both was manifestly genuine, and the results were to be seen in the salutary influence which those conversations with the Prince had exercised on the emperor's opinions.

These letters from the recent guests awaited the Queen on her return from an interesting holiday voyage to Cherbourg, an excursion of which the account in her Majesty's journal gives one the impression that she and the six elder children who accompanied their parents in a family party, regarded the trip as something of a freak, a holiday adventure, with new and strange attractions because of its being entirely unexpected.

Both the Queen and the Prince had long desired to see the new breakwater, the solid stone fortifications and defences of the basins and the harbour, and the extensive works that were reaching completion in the French seaport, and the little expedition to the old town had been determined on as a pleasant recreation after some months of anxiety and fatigue.

The appearance of the royal yacht in the harbour of Cherbourg seems rather to have surprised the French authorities there, but they were soon ready to welcome the august visitors to the picturesque old town. The Prince went on shore at once, and soon afterwards the *préfet maritime* and his flag-lieutenant went on board the yacht, and remained to dinner with the royal visitors. After dinner the English consul Mr. Hammond, and several French officers of distinction appeared in full uniform.

Among these was Général d'Herbillon, *inspecteur d'infanterie*, who had commanded at Traktir in the Crimea, who had had the order of the Bath conferred on him, and who happened to be at Cherbourg on a tour of inspection. There was also General Borel de Bretizel, commanding the troops here—also a Companion of the Bath—who turned out to be an old acquaintance, as he was with the Count de Nemours at the Queen's fancy ball in 1845. The others were the Contre-Amiral Regnault, the *commandant de Place*, Colonel Dumailly, *général d'artillerie*, a very stout old gentleman, also on a tour of inspection,—all *très-aimables*.

Next morning at half-past eight all the fortresses saluted. The account in the Queen's journal, as quoted in Sir Theodore Martin's *Life of the Prince Consort*, is as usual brightly picturesque and amusing. "At twenty minutes past nine the consul arrived, and Albert, to my great delight, consented to remain here to-night, so that we might visit an old château. Presently the admiral arrived and preceded us in a fine large boat,—we following with the three eldest children and the ladies and gentlemen (the three youngest remaining to go on shore with the governesses). Rowed up under salutes and the well-known *fanfare*, or *battre aux armes* of the different guards of honour. The reception was half private—no troops being drawn up—but all the generals and officers of different kinds were there; General Borel, in high boots, and on horseback, riding near our carriage. We and the two girls were in the admiral's little open carriage—the ladies and gentlemen and officers, in others, following.

"The town itself is very picturesque, but small, humble, and thoroughly foreign-looking; streets narrow, '*pavé*' bad; all the windows, without exception, casements, opening quite back,

leaving the whole space open, as if there were no windows, and with outside shutters. All the women in caps, many in the regular costume caps—many in smaller ones, and wearing full woollen petticoats and aprons, generally dark blue or violet—also coloured handkerchiefs. With hardly an exception, the caps were of dazzling white. Some (in mourning evidently) in black, with black ribbons round their caps. Very friendly, and making a great noise; many nice fat children and babies. . . . We wound up a hill, looking over a beautiful country, to an old deserted fort called '*Fort d'Octeville*,' where we all got out and scrambled up, and looked over the town and port, with the beautiful blue sea—a very fine sight—and the view very extensive. An extremely hot sun and no air."

The return was through the best part of the town to the Port Militaire and the sailors' barracks, where a regiment from the Crimea was drawn up, and the Sapeurs's band played "*Partant pour la Syrie*" and the well-known "*Battre aux armes*," "all (to me and Vicky too) so pleasant to hear again. . . . A great treat for Alice. We were preceded all the way by two gendarmes on horseback. Got back to port, re-embarked, and were on board our *swimming home* by twelve. The very civil *préfet maritime* escorted us back."

There had been additional pleasure in observing that many of the soldiers, a few officers, and even some sailors wore the Queen's Crimean medals, which, her Majesty had been informed by the Emperor, had given great satisfaction. Immediately after returning, Prince Albert went to inspect the works and docks more closely; the three younger children with their governesses had had a delightful expedition into the town, where they had "shopped," and seen soldiers and forts, which appear to have excited the admiration, or at all events, the imagination of

Prince Arthur. In the afternoon the same party who had gone out in the morning again went on shore, where, in a *char-a-bancs* with three seats, and drawn by four horses driven by postilions, they set out on a visit to an ancient château at the quaint little town of Bricquebec.

“Albert and Mr. Hammond in front, I and Vicky next, Alice and Affie behind. The regular French *poste*, driven by one *postillon* on the wheel horse, harnessed with ropes, no springs to carriage, so that we bumped along on the pavement pretty roughly. The others were in two carriages following, closed, odd sort of carriages, each with a pair of horses. Drove through the town, streets much fuller, some flags out, people very friendly, calling ‘*Vive la Reine d’Angleterre*,’ and the post-boys making a terrible noise, cracking and flourishing their whips. We drove to Bricquebec, twenty-two kilomètres from Cherbourg; and by Octeville, a very small village, along a beautiful, hilly, rich wooded country, with corn-fields, but very small ones, and literally not one village, only detached cottages and farms, some close to the road. Everything most picturesque and primitive—all the women in white caps, often with children in their arms, but many weighed down with the weight of corn which they carried on their backs; many sitting and resting on the door-sill, knitting; children running about, lattices open, showing in some cottages nice pewter-pots and platters, loaves, and here and there a ruddy, healthy *pay-sanne*, with her snow-white cap, looking at the strangely filled carriages passing before her. The horses and carts most picturesque, with sheepskins over them. The road quite straight, turning to neither right nor left after leaving Octeville, up and down the long steep hills, so that a sort of drag had to be constantly let down on both sides to keep back the wheel.

Intensely hot and dusty, but too delightfully interesting for one to feel tired. We could hardly believe we were really driving in this quiet way in France. . . . It grew later and later, and it seemed as though we should never reach our destination. At length, at the bottom of a hill, surmounted by the high old tower of the château, appeared the little town of Bricquebec. Most picturesque, the outskirts with good houses, well-dressed peasant women and fat babies at doors and windows. Then came a narrow street with shops, two old figures of saints in a conspicuous place, and people working and knitting at doors; picturesque groups without end. We stopped at an old narrow gateway and walked into the yard of the old château, part of which is now a very humble country inn called *Le Vieux Château*; and close to the gateway rises the very high old château. Got out, had very tired horses to feed, walked about, and finally climbed portion of castle, and went into the only portion of the interior which remains entire. The château is of the date of the eleventh century, and very curious. The somewhat tipsy mayor of the town conducted us over it; and then, as our horses had to rest, we walked a little about the outskirts, and began to be surrounded by the *gamins*, *moutards*, and little beggar-boys of the village.

“By the time we returned to the inn, the inhabitants of the village came up and surrounded us, chatting away and staring at and rather mobbing us. The horses, to our despair, not yet being rested, we decided to wait in a room upstairs—a small one with two beds—where we sat with the children and ladies, Vicky and I sketching the picturesque women and children standing below, in agony how and when we were to get back. It was near seven before we got into our carriage.

“The drive back was charming, sun setting, air deliciously



fresh, and horses getting along very well. Many people coming home or at their supper. At last we stopped to light our lanterns at Moninvart, a third part of the way. Most amusing to see people running out with candles, which they held up trying to get a sight of us. Great crowd at Octeville, when we stopped to adjust harness, and many gathering round and trying to see '*qui est donc la Reine?*' ('which is the Queen?') Cherbourg very full, but very dark streets, only lit by a lantern here and there slung across. Drove on to Port, and then pushed with great difficulty into barge, through a loudly talking crowd; and left General Bouverie with a lantern in his hand on the steps. People cheering.

"Long past nine when we got back, only to dinner at a quarter to ten! Général d'Herbillon (who sat next to me), Général Borel, and the Admiral, dined with us. It was nearly eleven when dinner was over, and we retired shortly afterwards. Beautiful night. This expedition, the object of many wishes of mine, had been delightful. Some singers came out in a steamer and sang very prettily."

This abbreviated extract from the Queen's journal may well claim our attention here, for it refers to the latest excursion which her Majesty made with the Princess Royal before the marriage of the Princess in January of the following year (1858).

Amidst the earlier preparations for the wedding, came the intelligence of a determined and horrible attempt on the lives of the Emperor and Empress of the French as they were being driven, accompanied by their attendants, to visit the opera on the evening of the 14th of January, 1858. The plot had, it was said, been concocted, and the instruments of it prepared, in London. The chief conspirator (known here as a speaker at meetings of refugees) was Felix Orsini, no common assassin,



but a typical Italian "patriot,"—a fanatic who, suspecting that the policy of Louis Napoleon would be to aid in crushing the liberal aspirations of Italy, had helped to organize a scheme among some of his companions to blow up the imperial carriage and its occupants by means of explosive bombs or hand-grenades. The missile was thrown at the carriage and exploded beneath it with terrible effect, for, though the emperor escaped with only a slight graze from a fragment of flying glass, and the empress with a rather painful blow on the eye, ten persons were killed, and above a hundred injured. The imperial party appeared a few minutes afterwards in the royal box, and the excitement of applause at their escape was tremendous, but a general feeling of uneasiness and indignation prevailed, which was partly directed against England, for it was declared that there revolutionary assassins found protection.

The Queen and Prince Albert first saw by the telegrams in the morning papers that some serious attempt had been made, and they at once telegraphed to the emperor, who replied in the afternoon saying that the empress and himself were safe, but deploring the injuries sustained by others. In the evening the Duke of Saxe-Coburg (Prince Albert's brother) arrived at Buckingham Palace. He had just come from Paris, where he had been in the imperial box at the opera awaiting the emperor and empress, when the cries and shrieks of the wounded were heard, and the crowd surrounding the carriage was surging in confusion and dismay.

On the 17th, the emperor and the empress both wrote to the Queen. The emperor said that the French were bent on finding accomplices in the crime everywhere, and he found it hard to resist all the extreme measures which people called on him to take, but that while endeavouring to strengthen the

hands of the government, nothing should make him deviate from his habitual calm, or be guilty of injustice. He expressed his sorrow for intruding a subject so serious at such a moment when he would fain speak only of the happiness he felt in the thought that the mother's heart would soon be satisfied by the marriage of the daughter, to whom he begged her Majesty to present his congratulations, and added: "Our warmest good wishes will be with her and with you on the 25th."

In the French chambers a good deal of strong language had been uttered against England, and Lord Clarendon, after reading the imperial "very kind and feeling letters," said that great allowance should be made for men whose fortunes depended on the life of the emperor, and that foreigners who saw that assassins could come and go here as they pleased, and that conspiracies could be hatched in England with impunity, could not be expected to think that our laws and policy were friendly to other countries, or to appreciate the extreme difficulty of making any change in our system.

It was a time of much trouble and no little sorrow, for in addition to the state of affairs in India, by which the whole nation was moved with grief and anxiety, there had been another bereavement to sadden the heart of the Queen. In the previous autumn, Victoire, the Duchess of Nemours, who had to all appearance recovered after the birth of a little daughter, died suddenly while speaking to her attendant of the dress she was to wear on the following day, when she expected to appear again in the family circle. It was a terrible blow to Prince Albert and to the Queen, who had thus lost another beloved friend and a namesake with whom she was in close and cherished sympathy; and court festivities had been countermanded, even the usual observance of the birthday of

the Princess Royal having been only of a quiet and domestic character.

The wedding-day—the 25th of January—was now approaching, however, and the bitter-sweet of that occasion touched the Queen deeply. The mother's heart was alternating between the joy that she shared with her child and the parting which must follow.

The sorrow shown and expressed by the royal parents at the prospect of the departure of their daughter, even as a happy bride, may be in a great measure attributed to her own strong attachment to her parents, and to the remarkable qualities by which she secured the love and esteem of all who could estimate the childlike simplicity and purity of heart, the high mental powers, and the calm judgment for which even at that early age the Princess Royal was distinguished. The simple manner and native independence, which rumour said enabled her to refuse to become subject to the mechanical and blighting ceremonial which beset even the private life of the Prussian court, was a phase of a disposition probably inherited from the Queen. At any rate, she was loved by both parents for the characteristics which she seemed to have taken from each; and that she loved and honoured *them* her grief at leaving them, expressed on the very eve of her wedding, sufficiently testified. The separation would be very real, for there would be few opportunities for interchange of visits, and the old familiar scenes and objects at Balmoral, at Osborne, and at Windsor would cease to be associated with the home-life that had been so dear. With the sentiments that accompanied this reflection Prince Albert could fully sympathize; while to the Queen, the thought that she would soon miss the dear familiar face and bright intelligence of the daughter who had been her companion in pleasant

excursions and recreations, gave a tone of inevitable sadness even to the preparations that were being made for the wedding celebrations.

The married pair were to go to Windsor for their honeymoon, and her Majesty records that on going to look at the suite of rooms that had been prepared for the occasion she could not control her agitation. Then "We took a short walk with Vicky, who was dreadfully upset at this real break in her life—the real separation from her childhood!"

By the 19th the wedding guests had arrived at Buckingham Palace, including the King of the Belgians, with his sons; the Prince and Princess of Prussia, with their suite; and about thirty other princes and princesses with their attendants. All the resources of the palace were needed to find accommodation for them, and from eighty to ninety persons sat down to dinner at the royal table every day. "Such a houseful!" wrote her Majesty; "such bustle and excitement!" On the 18th there was a large party in the evening, and after dinner a lively dance. "It was very animated, all the princes dancing. . . . Ernest (the Duke of Coburg) said it seemed like a dream to him to see Vicky dance as a bride, just as I did eighteen years ago, and I still (so he said) looking very young. In 1840 poor dear papa (the late Duke of Coburg) danced with me as Ernest danced with Vicky."

These memories were constantly recurring to the Queen, and mingled with the tender sadness with which she regarded her child during the gaieties and ceremonies that occupied the week before the wedding. The festivities began by a public appearance of her Majesty, the Prince Consort, the princess, and the royal family with their guests at Her Majesty's Theatre, on the 19th, when Mr. and Mrs. Keeley played in the farce of

*Twice Killed*, and *Macbeth* was performed with Miss Helen Faucit and Mr. Phelps in the principal characters. Three other performances took place, the last of them on the return of the wedded pair to London before their departure to Berlin, and on each occasion the great theatre, splendidly decorated with flowers, was filled with a vast assemblage, to witness the brilliant array of royal and princely personages occupying a great box formed of the whole of the boxes on one side of the grand tier. "We made a wonderful row of royalties," wrote her Majesty on the first occasion, "I sitting between dear uncle and the Prince of Prussia." The enthusiasm was immense, and when the whole audience rose at the sound of the first note of the national anthem, the stage itself being crowded, and everybody cheering and singing, the scene was one never likely to be forgotten.

A great ball, at which a thousand guests were present; the second (an operatic) performance at Her Majesty's Theatre; a great dinner-party with a choral concert in the evening; and on the next day (the 24th) the coming of the bridegroom, a "walk in the garden with Albert and our dear child. Albert went before me to fetch Fritz, who had landed at half-past ten, and at half-past one he arrived with his escort, and all the court waiting for him below." The Queen received him warmly at the foot of the staircase, but he was pale and nervous. Doubtless he had been wishing to get away from the court, for there at the top of the staircase was his dear princess with her sister Alice waiting for his coming, but ceremonial was essential, and the royal party went stately into the audience-room. In the afternoon Mr. Rarey, the then famous horse-tamer, went through his performances in the riding-house, and in the evening the array of royalties was again seen in Her Majesty's Theatre to



listen to the opera of *Sonnambula*. On the following day (Sunday) there were some quiet hours. In the large drawing-room, the numerous magnificent wedding gifts were displayed, that of the bridegroom being a row of the largest pearls the Queen had ever seen. The number and value of these presents would, perhaps, have been no necessary indication of the love that they represented; but there was no doubt of the sincere regard that accompanied them, and both the young people showed delight beyond the mere formal expressions of gratification. Morning service in the chapel, and a fine sermon by the Bishop of Oxford (Wilberforce), and then, after luncheon, another visit to the drawing-room, to find more presents, many of them the work of ladies, and some very splendid gifts from the royal household.

In the morning before church, and almost in the midst of the bustle and duties of hospitality, there had been a few minutes of sweet and touching communion of sentiment. "Dear Vicky gave me a brooch (a very pretty one) before church with her hair; and clasping me in her arms said: 'I hope to be worthy to be your child.'" At the close of the day, the evening before the ceremony which would part her from them, the royal parents went with their daughter to her room, there to kiss her and give their blessing as she rested sobbing in her mother's arms, and left them only to cling to the father whom she deeply loved.

On the bridal morning the princess went to her mother's room looking quiet and composed, and there the Queen gave her a pretty book called *The Bridal Offering*. Her Majesty says it was the second most eventful day in her life, for she felt as if she were being married over again, only much more nervous—so nervous that when all was ready for going to St. James's to the chapel, and a daguerreotype was taken of



father, mother, and daughter, the Queen trembled so that her likeness came out indistinct. But the bright wintry sky was full of sunshine, the shouts of a great multitude in the streets almost drowned the ringing of the church bells as the procession formed and the royal carriage conveyed her Majesty and the Princess to the other and older palace, which was reached amidst a flourish of trumpets and the cheering of thousands of voices.

There in the dressing-room were the eight bridesmaids, looking charming in white tulle, with wreaths and bouquets of pink roses and white heather, and in the private room reserved on court days for royalty, princes, princesses, peers, peeresses, and daughters of peers, was the Duchess of Kent, looking handsome in violet velvet trimmed with ermine and white silk and violet. There also were "the Cambridges," and all the foreign princes and princesses, except the King of the Belgians, the Prince of Prussia, and Prince Albert of Prussia, who were already in the chapel. The procession was formed much as it had been on the marriage of the Queen, who, however, remarks significantly in her journal "how small the *old* royal family has become." Small indeed, for only the Duchess of Kent and the Duchess of Cambridge remained to represent it. Since the death of the amiable Princess Sophia, the youngest daughter of George the Third, in 1848, at the age of seventy-one, and of the Duke of Cambridge in 1850, the Duchess of Gloucester had been the sole *direct* representative, the last survivor of the old family; and her death, at the age of eighty-one, had been among the sorrows of 1857; for she was a link between the two generations, so that the Queen and her children regarded her as "a sort of grandmother," and "her great kindness, amiability, and unselfishness rendered her more and more dear and precious."

With drums and trumpets playing marches, the procession reached the chapel, where the organ had taken up the music. After the train of princes, princesses, and officers of state, came the Princess Mary of Cambridge, the Duchess of Cambridge, and the Duchess of Kent. Lord Palmerston carried the sword of state, and was followed by the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred. Then came the Queen with her two little boys on either side, and followed by the three princesses, Alice, Helena, and Louise, hand-in-hand, wearing pink satin trimmed with Newport lace, and in their hair marguerites and corn-flowers; the latter the favourite flower of Queen Louise of Prussia and of all her descendants. Our Queen wore a train of lilac velvet, petticoat of lilac and silver moiré antique with Honiton lace flounce, a diamond corsage, and the Koh-i-noor as a brooch. On her head was a magnificent diadem of pearls and diamonds. The small chapel, filled with royal and noble personages, exhibited a brilliant spectacle. The bridegroom, first bowing to the Queen, knelt in silent prayer. The bride's procession then entered, the Princess Royal walking between King Leopold and her father. Her quiet, calm, and composed manner reassured the Queen, who had herself been almost overcome by memories which still recalled the scene of her own marriage; but her Majesty's habit of attentive observation enabled her, even amidst her agitation, to note every occurrence, every detail. "The music was very fine, the archbishop very nervous, Fritz spoke very plainly, Vicky too. The archbishop omitted some of the passages." The ceremony concluded, there were embraces and warm salutations. The bride and bridegroom went forth hand-in-hand to the sound of Mendelssohn's "Wedding-march," and all the company went up to the throne-room, where the register was to be signed, first by the young couple, then by the

parents, and next by the princes and princesses, including the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, Princess Alice, the Prussian princes, and the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh "resplendent with pearls." The ministers of state and the clergy appended their names; and then the bride and bridegroom, followed by the royal and noble company, retired to Buckingham Palace, where the young couple were conducted, by the Queen and the Prince Consort, to the window over the central archway, and stepped out upon the balcony that they might be seen by the cheering and enthusiastic crowds, the royal parents of both standing with them to witness these demonstrations of loyal regard.

After the wedding breakfast came the parting, the tears and farewells, as the brilliant assembly went to the door of the palace to see the bridal pair drive away. The inevitably dull afternoon, dinner *en famille*, a state concert in the evening, the arrival of a messenger from Windsor to say that the Eton boys had insisted on dragging the carriage of the prince and princess from the railway-station to the castle, closed the day, and carried on the celebrations beyond midnight. London was illuminated and the streets were thronged till next morning. One warm loving heart, though absent, was full of sympathy for the Queen. Her Majesty's sister, the Princess Hohenlohe, was detained in Germany with her husband through illness; but she wrote saying how she longed to be near the Queen and her dear child. She had written only two or three days before in words of deep sympathy for the pain that mothers feel in parting with the daughters of their love. Now she wrote: "This evening I should like to be with you for a moment, and to kiss you, my own dear sister, when everybody else is gone. Constant separations in this life. I am very low to-day. My prayers are with you and your dear child."

But there was soon a temporary reunion. The court went down to Windsor on the 27th, and on the following day the bridegroom was invested with the order of the Garter, a ceremony which was followed by a great state dinner; and next morning there was the return to London, the departure of most of the royal and princely guests, the latest public state appearance of the wedded pair at Her Majesty's Theatre with her Majesty and the Prince Consort, the reception of addresses and presents from the chief cities and towns of the United Kingdom, and attendance at a brilliant and crowded "drawing-room" held by the Queen. The real parting was three days afterwards, and it was perhaps the more painful because of the evidences of the recent wedding festivities—decorations, stray ball programmes, and dinner lists—that were to be seen here and there. The Queen was nearly broken down with grief. The princess gave way to a burst of sorrow at the thought of bidding farewell to her father, whose love for her she knew was deep, true, and abiding if it had never been very demonstrative.

The bridegroom was much affected, and probably felt that curious, sad, half-guilty sensation which all good and true bridegrooms experience as they witness the domestic desolation which they have occasioned. The Prince Consort went with the travellers as far as Gravesend, and the two young brothers of the bride with the Duke of Cambridge followed. The carriages were open though it had begun to snow. The people were again cheering in the streets; but when the Prince Consort and his two sons returned there was a very sad evening to get through, for the familiar and beloved figure was absent—had seemed to go out of sight in the wintry veil of snow upon the pier, where, amidst the softly falling flakes, young girls strewed flowers on the way that led to the ship.

The complete confidence and profound affection that existed between the Prince Consort and his daughter found expression in a correspondence wherein the Prince was able to convey encouragement and wise counsel, the effects of which were happily conspicuous in sustaining the princess in the difficulties which it may be supposed she experienced amidst a foreign court where her husband's father was still only lieutenant to the incapable king, and party interest was an element of weakness and confusion. But the son-in-law was able immediately to telegraph to London: "The whole royal family is enchanted with my wife;" and there were many cordial assurances that this delight was shared by the people of the country, who had heard of the marriage with hearty gratification. The simple winning manners of the English Princess touched the German heart, and her clear good sense, her mental attainments, and her strong realization of the duties of the home and the family along with those of rank and station, confirmed and enhanced the first impressions made by her youthful sincerity and her calm confidence in the good-will which she believed she would share with the husband who had won her affection.

Prince Albert was soon considering how it might be possible again to pay a visit to the home of his childhood, and one of its greatest inducements was that he might make it an opportunity to meet his child; but, as we have seen, important public events with which the Queen, and consequently he himself, was personally concerned demanded strenuous attention, while many public and private social duties had to be fulfilled. The condition of affairs in India after the suppression of the mutiny, and the change in public feeling here with regard to the proclamation of Lord Canning;—the prolonged hostilities in China, where the treachery of the government eventually led to the united French



and English forces destroying the summer palace of the emperor at Peking before the terms of the promised treaty could be concluded;—the disturbed condition of Italy, where revolution threatened the position of all the pieces on the national chess-board, and left Austria uncertain whether she would have to prepare for war with France, or whether Louis Napoleon's scheme for a congress of the great powers to revise the map of Europe would find support in England,—had to be considered with watchful care; and in the midst of it all a blaze of wrath and defiance suddenly flamed through the kingdom because of the language used by certain officers in the French army, who made the complaint of the Orsini plot having originated with the Italian refugees in London a reason for threatening and denouncing England.

Either the emperor was unable to stem the tide of abuse and hostile declarations, or he was somewhat unnerved by the attempt to assassinate him, and, losing his "habitual calm," yielded to the representation that he was surrounded by dangers the worst of which had their origin among the foreign refugees in London. He who had lived (and plotted) here so long, must have known that our laws and free constitution forbade such interference with the liberty of those who sought the protection of our shores, as would involve the employment of a secret political police and the infliction of punishment on the suspicion of conspiracy against foreign rulers; but he permitted himself to be influenced by bad advisers, who pretended that the countries in which such conspiracy was hatched should in some sense be made responsible for its attempted execution in the country against the ruler of which it was directed. This of course applied to other nations beside England, and communications of an actually menacing character were despatched



to Belgium, Switzerland, and Sardinia, demanding that measures should be taken for arresting and punishing any refugees suspected of conspiring against the life of a foreign ruler. The despatch sent to England was far more moderate, and its language, though capable of being interpreted into a remonstrance involving a claim that the laws or the constitutional procedure of the country should be altered for the purpose of meeting the representations of the French government, was sufficiently ambiguous to leave room for another interpretation involving only such a due application of existing laws as would prevent and punish criminal conspiracies.

This reading of the despatch had been accepted by Lord Clarendon, Lord Cowley, and Lord Palmerston, and might have been endorsed by the nation but for the messages sent to other and weaker states, and the monstrous language of certain French colonels who represented various regiments which sent addresses of congratulation to the emperor on his escape from the attempt of Orsini and his confederates. As it was, a shout of indignation was raised throughout the country, the note of retaliatory defiance was sounded in trumpet tones by the poet-laureate in some stirring verses, an enormous meeting was held in Hyde Park to give expression to the public feeling on the language employed in the addresses of the French officers to the emperor. Newspapers and caricatures were full of the subject and accentuated it, speeches were made about it at public meetings, and everywhere there seemed to be much danger to that *entente cordiale* which Palmerston as well as Persigny had earnestly supported, and in which, as we have noted, both Clarendon and Palmerston believed, as they were convinced of the sincerity of the declarations made by the emperor during his visit to Osborne. With this justi-

fiable conviction a bill known as the Conspiracy to Murder Bill had been introduced to parliament for removing conspiracy from the class of misdemeanours to that of felony, punishable with penal servitude for five years as a minimum, or for life as a maximum; but after leave had been given to bring it in, the threats of the French colonels and a sinister interpretation of the demands of the French despatch gave quite another aspect to the measure, which was now represented to be an act of truckling to the threatening demands of France. A Dr. Bernard was brought to trial on the charge of being an accomplice in the Orsini plot, and was committed on a charge of murder and as an accessory before the fact. This gave rise to a suspicion that the laws of England were about to be wrested at the dictation of a foreign government, and the scene of excitement in court when the prisoner was acquitted showed how public feeling had been exasperated. The bill was already doomed, for Disraeli and Gladstone were both opposed to it; Milner Gibson had a strong amendment against it; and though Palmerston and Clarendon defended it they could not get over the unfortunate fact that no proper reply had been given to the despatch from the French minister. This in the existing state of public sentiment sealed the fate of the measure. The government of Lord Palmerston was defeated, and had to resign to make way for a Conservative ministry under the Earl of Derby. A reply of a plainly remonstrative and dignified character was sent to the French government, who thereupon disclaimed the interpretation which had been placed upon their representations, while the emperor personally declared that as such a misunderstanding was likely to injure the alliance of the two nations he should for his part frankly let the whole question sink into oblivion. The public

excitement produced here had, however, some important effects. The militia was strengthened and reorganized, and proposals to form Volunteer regiments were again brought forward by earnest and competent men in so decided a manner that several thousands of volunteer riflemen, whose well-chosen motto was "Defence, not Defiance," were rapidly enrolled.

Singularly enough Orsini, before his execution and that of his chief accomplices, had written a letter to the Emperor of the French, calling upon him to give his aid to the struggle for the freedom of Italy; and it was said that Louis Napoleon, who was much affected by the appeal, would have pardoned the man who attempted to assassinate him, but was unable to take so remarkable a step amidst the influences by which he was surrounded. It soon became evident, however, that he was contemplating interference on behalf of Italian independence against Austria, and this was at once perceived by the Prince Consort, who could interpret the fact, that, when the King of Sardinia had written a firm and determined reply to the demands of the French minister, Louis Napoleon again took the matter into his own hands, and wrote to Victor Emmanuel "to do the best he could to concur with the request in the despatch, and not to feel uneasy about it." "I fear," wrote Prince Albert to Stockmar, "he is at this moment meditating some Italian development, which is to serve as a lightning-conductor, and ever since Orsini's letter he has been all for Italian independence; only the Pope and the compact with the church, which is useful to him at home, stand in his way. A conflict between Sardinia and Naples might, however, look as though he had nothing to do with it, even though it should set all Italy in a blaze. The materials for the conflagration are ready in abundance, and would even suffice to spread the flame as far as Germany."

The estimate formed by the Prince Consort concerning the tentative policy of Louis Napoleon did not interfere with the personally friendly disposition which had been maintained. Of course the Emperor of the French could not help showing his hand to keen observers, and it was evident that he was already hostile to Austria, and was therefore apparently propitiating Russia, and forming a friendly understanding with Sardinia—the latter in prospect of an early interposition on behalf of the independence of Italy, which would at once humble Austria, appear to make the imperial rule in France synonymous with liberal institutions and the will of the people, vindicate the demand for a revision of the map, and, as the event proved, secure additional territory to France by the cession of Savoy and Nice.

Even while the persistent adhesion of the British government to the terms of the treaty with Turkey was preventing the proposals of Louis Napoleon from being carried, he was as firmly persuaded as ever that an alliance with this country was essential. His letter to the Queen congratulating her on her birthday was as cordial as ever, and contained a friendly and pressing invitation from the empress and himself to her Majesty and the Prince Consort to pay a summer visit to Cherbourg on the occasion of the fêtes which were to celebrate the completion of the great works there.

Another calamity had occurred to the exiled Orleans family at Claremont. Hélène, the widowed Duchess of Orleans, had died suddenly during, or in consequence of, a severe attack of influenza, from which other members of the family were suffering. The Prince Consort at once went to Richmond, where, at Cranbourne House, the residence of the duchess, he found all the relatives assembled in deep sorrow: the two sons, the Comte de Paris, who was then in his twentieth year, and the Duc de

Chartres, not yet of age, having only their grandmother, the admirable ex-Queen Amélie, to take the place of the mother whom they had lost. To see them and the family of the Duc d'Aumale at Twickenham her Majesty arranged to go on the following day.

The Queen had been greatly concerned by the difficulties which accompanied the settlement of the pacification of the province of Oude after the suppression of the mutiny, for Lord Ellenborough, who had been appointed President of the Board of Control in Lord Derby's ministry, had sent off a secret despatch censuring Lord Canning's proclamation and disparaging Lord Dalhousie's previous policy, without consulting his colleagues or sending a copy of the despatch to her Majesty. As Mr. Disraeli, representing the government, had expressed disapproval of Lord Canning's proclamation, a difficult complication arose when Lord Ellenborough sent a second despatch professing to instruct Lord Canning in the principles on which the pacification of Oude should be carried out; and Lord Canning was able to show that he had repeatedly declared these very principles to be his own line of action, and that the publication of the message was an entire vindication of his policy. The Queen, when a copy of the secret despatch was laid before her, saw at once that this was the case so far as the policy of Lord Canning had been explained in his letters, and, having already remonstrated with Lord Derby on account of the first despatch having been sent without her knowledge, now pointed out the inconsistency of these unauthorized representations. "It is a great pity," she wrote, "that Lord Ellenborough, with his knowledge, experience, energy, and ability, should be so entirely unable to submit to general rules of conduct. The Queen has been for some time alarmed at his writing letters of his own to all the



most important Indian chiefs and kings, explaining his policy. All this renders the position of a governor-general almost untenable, and that of the government at home very hazardous."

Lord Ellenborough, when he found how his wilful proceedings had embarrassed the government, which was threatened with a vote of censure by the opposition, took the responsibility on himself and tendered his resignation; but this was no answer to the charge that the ministry had endorsed a public reprimand of Lord Canning, and her Majesty perceived how injurious the whole proceeding must be in retarding the work of pacification which the governor-general was anxious to conclude. Further letters and information appeared to establish his assertion that the objections raised to his proclamation were answered not only by the method of applying its provisions, but by the success which attended his efforts, and her Majesty then wrote: "Lord Ellenborough must be taken to have acted hastily in at once condemning Lord Canning, and unfairly to him in doing this on private information, without hearing the governor-general on the other side. It is always dangerous to keep up a private correspondence with inferior officers, allowing them to criticise their superiors; but it is subversive of all good government to act at once on the opinion given by inferiors."

There was a government crisis, and the opposition had a strong case; but the resignation of Lord Ellenborough, who was succeeded by Lord Stanley, and the vindication of the policy which had been achieved, were felt to have been sufficient to make persistence in moving a vote of censure too obviously a party combination, and as there was, therefore, no cohesion in what had threatened to be a powerful organization, the motion was abandoned. The measures for the government of India were afterwards passed, to the satisfaction of the Queen, who



thought, as the provisions of the revised bill were so satisfactory, that the delay of the government crisis had been advantageous.

As the political crisis had passed Prince Albert was able to take advantage of the short Whitsuntide recess to pay the desired visit to Coburg; but, to his disappointment, his dear daughter the Princess Royal was suffering from a sprained foot, and would not be able to leave Berlin to accompany him. It was arranged, therefore, that he should shorten his stay at Coburg to three days, and thus secure two days of his holidays for a visit to the princess and her husband at Babelsberg.

The visit to his native place was associated with mingled emotions of pleasure and regret. Many changes had been made, new buildings appeared, including a grand Catholic church which "Augustus, the pope, and all manner of bishops and pious souls" were erecting upon the terrace of the Hofgarten, right in front of the palace. The duke met him at Füllbach, the Princess of Prussia had accompanied him from Remagen to Stolzenfels, looking well and talking the whole way. During his stay he and his brother went to visit his dear old friend Stockmar, who had just come in from a long brisk walk and spoke cheerfully and vigorously. There were performances at the theatre, visits in company with Ernest and Alexandrine to the new burial-ground and the mausoleum; to the natural history museum, to a magnificent new brewery, and to the new barracks. During the day the Prince was suffering from headache and general *malaise*, the result of that weakness of digestion which so often troubled him; but he soon recovered, and in the letters which he wrote daily to the Queen, full of loving, tender interest, he gave a brief but suggestive account of his impressions, and when a courier arrived with a letter from Osborne, sent back in a tin case pansies from the Rosenau, and cowslips

gathered at the Schweizerei: "Make tea of them in honour of me and let Bertie have some." In a later letter he sent "a forget-me-not from grandmama's grave."

Prince Frederick William was at Grossbeeren to meet the Prince Consort, and take him off to Babelsberg, where the Princess and her father-in-law, the Prince of Prussia, were expecting him, and received him with delight. Other members of the Prussian royal family went to visit him, and in the evening the King and Queen, with the Prince and Princess of Prussia, made their appearance; the king in uniform with helmet and sword, but evidently a wreck both in body and mind, "thin and fallen away over his whole body, with a large stomach; his face grown quite small." He made some attempt to speak in his old jocular way, but with a voice broken and features full of pain. He stayed half an hour, and appeared to make some effort to keep from mental confusion, his brother seeming to devote himself to be of service to him in every way.

The visit of the Prince Consort was all too short; but he spent a happy, quiet day with his daughter, with whom, as with her husband, he had much satisfactory conversation; and in the evening took a drive in their company through Potsdam, Charlottenhof, and Sans Souci. The next evening he turned his face homeward, and with the happy knowledge that the union of the young couple was one of affection, and that the relation between them was everything that could be desired.

At nine o'clock on the morning of the 8th of June the Prince reached London, and found the Queen at the Bricklayers' Arms Station, whither she had gone to meet him.

There were many engagements awaiting them, many public duties to be fulfilled, which were little less arduous because they took the form of festive or ceremonial celebrations. That sum-

mer of 1858 was phenomenally sultry; the heat was intense and oppressive, so much so, that it shortened the deliberations in parliament, where the exhausting atmosphere, added to the offensive odour from the Thames, was unendurable, and undoubtedly hastened through the house a measure for the purification of the river, and a scheme for the main drainage of London, which was commenced without delay.

A week after the return of the Prince Consort the engagement made by the Queen to open Aston Hall and Park near Birmingham was fulfilled. Her Majesty and the Prince had accepted an invitation to be the guests of Lord Leigh, the lieutenant of Warwickshire, at Stoneleigh Abbey. The heat during the railway journey from London to Coventry was exceedingly trying; but the drive through the country by roads crowded with loyal people, and through the magnificent park, was a refreshing change from the stifling railway-carriage, and the terrace garden, with the river Avon flowing past and a splendid background of noble trees, was greatly admired by the Queen, who also dwelt with expressions of pleasure on the view of the river from the apartments which had been prepared for her.

A distinguished party had assembled to receive the royal visitors, and in what was really the cool of the evening the gardens, the gate of the old abbey, and the entrance to the house were beautifully illuminated with coloured lamps. As the Queen and the company walked in the garden, her Majesty and Prince Albert were greeted with the cheers of a multitude of spectators who had assembled in the home park. As her Majesty returned to the house the national anthem was sung with great effect by the combined voices of the crowd.

The next day, after half an hour's broiling on the railway, the royal visitors entered Birmingham, where, under a bright, burning,

cloudless sky, densely packed crowds filled the streets, which were admirably decorated with flags, mottoes, scrolls, and flowers, not a few of the inscriptions being devoted to the Princess Royal and her husband, and many of them recording blessings on the Prince Consort, who was greatly admired and appreciated in this industrial centre, where his influence in promoting art and manufactures was well known. The legends on scrolls and flags were touching in their loyalty, and one which gave the Queen great pleasure stretched across the front of a house with the words, "Victoria the People's Friend," in flowers wrought upon cloth. The Queen wrote, "The arrangements were magnificent, the best I ever saw—the thousands all stationary behind barriers, and the decorations most beautiful and full of taste." The cheering was tremendous, the heat fearful, especially at the Town-hall, where there was a throne, at which the Queen received addresses and knighted the mayor before continuing the procession to old Aston Hall and Park, which had been converted into a museum and people's park by subscriptions, to which the people themselves had largely contributed. A deputation of working-men was received by the Queen, who, with the Prince Consort and the distinguished company in attendance, partook of luncheon in rooms which had been prepared and handsomely decorated, and after receiving addresses in the gallery, where the managers of the undertaking were presented, passed out to the balcony, from which the park was proclaimed to be open. The Queen with the Prince then went down to the exhibition rooms and walked along the terrace amidst the cheers of the assembly. Her Majesty heard a voice in the crowd exclaim, "Quite a pattern lady!" and another, "What a darling!" and she recorded that she had been at the park as a child in 1830, when it belonged to Mr. Watts. She was so much fatigued with the heat that

after leaving the railway and driving to Kenilworth Prince Albert went alone to see the ruins, the Queen having visited them in the early days just referred to. The next day the royal visitors started in an open carriage for Warwick Castle, escorted by Lord Leigh and the yeomanry of the county; the air was so stifling and oppressive that a haze lay amidst the shady recesses of the castle grounds and under the fronds of great cedars and leafy forest trees. But the reception was most enthusiastic both at Leamington and Warwick. At a little before five the Queen and Prince left the castle for the railway-station, which they had only just reached when a tremendous storm commenced, out of which the train carried the royal passengers, conveying them to London by a little before eight, to find that at Buckingham Palace the heat was tropical.

A visit of the King of the Belgians and his family added to the social enjoyments of the season; but the Prince Consort, in addition to his usual duties, had engagements to preside at numerous meetings and to inaugurate various institutions. Just before leaving for Osborne, he took the chair as usual at the annual dinner of the Trinity House, on which occasion he referred in emphatic language to the necessity for maintaining the naval and military forces. He was strongly impressed with the necessity for greatly increasing our coast defences, and the forthcoming visit to those stupendous works at Cherbourg, which had been originally intended as a menace to England, and had been progressing since the time of Louis XIV., emphasized his appeal, though the Emperor of the French, in inviting the Queen and the Prince Consort to witness their completion, had, in his communication with our ambassador in Paris, distinctly declared that the invitation had been given in no spirit of ostentation, but as a friendly assurance that the alliance with England



was such as to leave no thought of placing her on her defence, and that the works were solely intended to strengthen the position of France in Europe.

One remarkable evidence of the emperor's continued good faith was believed to be the appointment of General Pelissier, the Duke of Malakoff, as French ambassador in London, after the resignation of Persigny; for Pelissier was an honest, outspoken man, and as firm an advocate of the English alliance as Persigny had been, and as one of the chief officers of the French army spoke with indignation and contempt of the language of the bellicose colonels.

Lord Cowley, writing from Paris to Lord Malmesbury at the foreign office, said that the visit of the Queen to Cherbourg would be most useful in renewing good feeling in France, and that a meeting with Prince Albert was always beneficial to the emperor, who had great confidence in the Prince's judgment. It was therefore decided by her Majesty that the invitation should be accepted, but only in the sense of a private visit which should terminate before the festivities that were to celebrate the opening of the great basin.

Though the visit was to be regarded as a private one, the accompaniments were sufficiently imposing. On the afternoon of the 4th of August the royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, with the Queen, the Prince Consort, and the Prince of Wales on board, arrived at about six miles from Cherbourg, and thence, beside the four vessels and the Trinity House yacht *Irene* which were in immediate attendance, a squadron of six vessels of the fleet formed the royal escort, the largest vessel being the *Royal Albert*, of 131 guns, with Admiral Lord Lyons and the Duke of Malakoff on board.

Amidst the tremendous thunder of salutes from forts and



French ships of war in the bay the escort with the royal yacht steamed into the harbour under the gray light of a dull evening. Nine French line-of-battle ships were anchored along the breakwater, and on every side were numberless small vessels brilliantly decked out. The effect was grand as the *Victoria and Albert* anchored in their midst surrounded by her own attendant ships. The cannonade was tremendous, and so rapid that a train of fire seemed to run along each line of the decks of the ships of war, and the forts, taking up the salute with deafening reverberations that continuously shook the air, seemed to carry on the line of flame from point to point till it shone at remote distances on shore. It was an amazing demonstration that the stupendous works had been completed on all sides, and that not a coign of vantage had been neglected in protecting the great seaport against the world.

The emperor and empress, who were to reside at the préfecture during the fêtes, had only just arrived from the ceremony of opening the new railway from Nantes to Cherbourg when they heard the sound of the salutes; but the royal yacht had scarcely anchored before Admiral Hamelin, the French minister of marine, went on board with greetings from the emperor. He was followed by Admiral Defossé, who was in command of the fleet at Cherbourg, Lord Cowley, who had come from Paris, Mr. Hammond, the British consul at the port, and Admiral Lyons, who was suffering from the illness which not long afterwards proved fatal. There was a pleasant, merry dinner-party on board the royal yacht; but an hour after the company had sat down, a sound of cheering was heard: the illuminations on the breakwater showed that there was some movement and bustle going forward; bands played,\* the yards were manned, and presently the white imperial barge, with its green velvet canopy

and golden eagle, was seen approaching. The Prince Consort at the foot of the ladder, and the Queen at the top, warmly received their imperial hosts and their suite on board the yacht, and with mutual courtesies led them into the canopy, where they sat down. But the emperor was evidently embarrassed, and could not hide that he felt some constraint as he inquired whether there was still ill-feeling against France in England, and whether an invasion was expected; to which her Majesty smilingly replied that the feeling had much subsided, but that very place (Cherbourg) caused alarm, and the unhappy addresses of the colonels had done much mischief. The emperor said that he knew this was so, and that they had been sent without his knowledge, and their publication had much distressed him.

This evening call was not prolonged into a visit. There was a singular sense of its being tentative, and of the former frank, cordial relations having been disturbed. "Empress looks ill; he is out of humour at all that is said about him in England," was the significant jotting in Prince Albert's journal. In the blaze of blue and red lights on the royal yacht and the English vessels, and with a brilliant illumination cast upon its occupants by a newly invented light from one of our ships, the imperial barge glided away shoreward. The Queen's journal records: "During the evening a vessel with a good band on board went playing round our yacht;" and the entry naïvely concludes: "At twenty minutes to ten we went below, and read and nearly finished that most interesting book *Jane Eyre*." An example this, of the remarkable faculty, possessed by the Queen and the Prince Consort, of detaching their domestic personal life from the external excitements of great state occasions and the exactions of ceremonial observances.

In the morning while the Queen was dressing, the admiralty flag on the royal yacht was hauled down, and the French flag hoisted at the fore. In reply the French ships were immediately dressed, the yards manned, and thunderous salutes roared from the guns. After breakfast her Majesty sat sketching for an hour, and watching the gay life and movement of ships and boats in the harbour. A whole fleet of vessels were bringing people from England. A hundred members of the House of Commons had chartered a vessel for themselves; and beside steamers, squadrons of yachts, including 150 vessels of the yacht clubs, were seen hovering like sea-birds beyond the breakwater, or fluttering into the harbour with a press of canvas that heeled them over in a way to cause the French, even in that seaport town, to inquire whether the English sailed like that for pleasure.

Before noon the royal party went on board the *Fairy* and were landed at the port. The tremendous salutes continued after her Majesty had been received by the Emperor, and during the progress of the visit to the works on shore the firing was again taken up by the forts. Prince Albert and the Duke of Cambridge were in undress uniform, the Prince of Wales in Highland dress, and all the other gentlemen of the party in uniform. There was a sense of semi-state and of a certain stiffness and reserve which distinguished this visit from the former one, but as the Queen rode in the Emperor's carriage through the streets that were gaily decorated and lined with troops, she was able to observe some of those details the record of which make her journals so interesting. After luncheon in the imperial salon at the préfecture,—where the engraved portraits of the Queen and the Prince Consort, which had been sent the previous year to the *préfet maritime*, were hung up

with inscriptions,—there was a good deal of conversation with the empress on the subject of the injury done by English newspaper articles when translated into foreign journals, and the attempt of Orsini was described and commented on, but the emperor was still rather silent and *boutonné*.

The French ladies in the suite of the empress, the Generals MacMahon, Niel, and others, and the English suite had assembled in the adjoining room; and, after a little conversation with them, the Queen again entered the carriage and a visit was made to the encampment at the new railway-station, where a number of the 80,000 soldiers who could not be housed at Cherbourg were under canvas. Thence the drive was to the Fort la Roule, which commands the whole of Cherbourg, and stands on an eminence from which the hills and valleys of the distant country, the villages dotted here and there, the ancient churches and ivy-grown towers, the woods and glades, could be seen lying like a grandly constructed map; while, on the other hand, like a vast geometrically designed plan, were the docks, basins, and harbours, the superb roadstead with the combined fleets, gay with many-coloured flags; the white-sailed yachts skimming about the harbour, the great, grim tiers of fortification; and everywhere forts, batteries, cannons, whose muzzles seemed to command every point to which the eye could be directed.

It was all vastly imposing and calculated to give serious thoughts to those who, with Prince Albert, regarded the enormous “defences” as a lesson which should not be missed by England. As the royal and imperial party walked back to the town (about a mile), and then, after calling at the préfecture, went to have a look at the great basin that was to be opened at the end of the week, probably their reflections were not such as led to much conversation; but apart from other

impressions, the somewhat reserved, not to say uneasy, feeling of the principal personages is frankly accounted for by the Queen herself. The imperial hosts had invited not only their royal guests, but both the suites and all the admirals and captains of both fleets, to a grand dinner on board the *Bretagne* at seven o'clock that evening, and it was, of course, understood not only that the Emperor and the Prince Consort would each have to make a speech, but that what they said would be said "with the eyes of all Europe upon them," and probably searched for hidden meanings.

At this banquet, which was served under canvas on deck, seventy people sat down; the Queen between the Emperor and the Duke of Cambridge, the Empress opposite, seated between the Prince Consort and the Prince of Wales. The emperor seems to have got his speech pretty well settled, and so was able to unbend a little and to talk to her Majesty more in his usual, frank, pleasant manner. He was still rather under a cloud because of what had been said of him in England; but when the terrible moment for the speeches came, and he proposed the health of her Majesty, of the Prince, and of the royal family, he abated nothing of his declarations of amity, but in a loud voice proclaimed his earnest desire for the maintenance of an alliance between the two nations; of a friendship between the two crowns, which "hostile passions, aided by certain untoward incidents, had failed to sever." More than this, he declared that he cherished a confident hope that if attempts were made to stir up old resentments and the passions of a former epoch, they would fall harmless against the common sense of the people, "as the sea-waves recoiled from the breakwater, which at this moment protects the fleets of both empires against the violence of the sea."



Then the band played, and Prince Albert had to respond, the Queen sitting shaking, with her eyes riveted to the table. He said that the good understanding between the two countries was the constant object of the Queen's desires as it was of the Emperor's. She was therefore doubly happy to have the opportunity by her presence there at that time of joining the Emperor in the endeavour to knit as closely as possible the bonds of friendship between the two nations,—a friendship which was at the root of the prosperity of both, and to which the blessing of Heaven would not be denied. He concluded by saying that the Queen proposed the health of the Emperor and Empress. Then hosts and royal guests rose from the table and entered the cabin, where there was handshaking and congratulations. Surely there is a touch of her unfailing humour in the remark of the Queen: "We all talked of the terrible 'emotion' we had undergone, the emperor himself having 'changed colour,' and the empress having also been very nervous. I shook so I could not drink my cup of coffee." Evidently the whole party was in a state of nervous tension, and this had the effect, amidst all the peculiar restraints of the occasion, of bringing that reaction which is the common experience. The evening closed with a magnificent display of fireworks, the music of the fine band of the Guides, and singing by a choral company of working-people of Cherbourg in a ship close by. Then in the still, warm evening, the imperial barge conveyed the royal guests to their own yacht, farewells were said, and the emperor and empress went ashore amidst repeated British cheers and the coruscations of a flight of coloured rockets from the royal yacht.

The next day, August 6th, was the fourteenth birthday of Prince Alfred, and the royal parents remembered it with



tender loving words and hopes, that took them in spirit to Osborne, where, in a few hours, they hoped to be at home again. The emperor and empress went on board the royal yacht to say farewell. They were accompanied by a large number of distinguished persons in their suite, but formalities had disappeared so far as the hearty simple good-will expressed on both sides was concerned, especially on the part of the empress. The *Victoria and Albert* got under weigh immediately after the departure of the hosts, and, as the emperor stood on the poop of the *Bretagne* waving his hand, steamed out amidst the tremendous roar of salutes and the cheers from thousands, which, as soon as the royal yacht had cleared her way ahead of the lines of English vessels, were returned by the great guns of our escorting ships of war and the shouting of their crews.

Soon after four o'clock, in the soft glow and slumbrous air of the autumn afternoon, the *Victoria and Albert*, attended only by the *Irene*, rounded the Needles, and all but the personal attendants having been landed to proceed to London, the royal travellers went on shore at their own home. "Dear Affie was on the pier, and we found all the other children, including Baby, standing at the door. Deckel (a favourite dog) and our new charming kennel-bred Dachs 'Boy' also received us with pleasure."

They went to see "Affie's" table of birthday presents—entirely nautical. In an hour the Queen went out to Prince Albert on the lawn, and then went with the children—"Alice and I driving"—to the Swiss Cottage, which was all decked out with flags in honour of Prince Albert's birthday. "The children had lunched there. Alice, Affie, and Mr. (now Sir John) Cowell were the additions to our dinner-party. I sat between Albert and Affie. The two little boys (Princes Arthur and

Leopold) appeared. A band played, and after dinner we danced, with the three boys and three girls and the company, a merry country-dance on the terrace. A delightful finale to our expedition! It seemed a dream, that this morning at twelve we should have been still at Cherbourg, with the emperor and empress on board our yacht."

Prince Alfred, who had already begun his duties, had just returned from a yachting excursion in Ireland, where he waited at Valentia for the arrival of the transatlantic telegraph cable (the first), which was successfully laid, but the communication of which afterwards failed. Just before the visit to Cherbourg Prince Albert, writing from Osborne to Stockmar, said: "I yesterday saw Alfred as a volunteer upon the mast of the *Rollo*, reef the topsail in a strong breeze, and do all sorts of things at that dizzy height with great dexterity, which would have taken away your breath as they did mine."

The arrangements for the further education of the Princesses Alice and Helena prevented them from accompanying her Majesty and the Prince Consort to Germany, whither the Queen was longing to go that she might see her daughter. Her Majesty was lamenting that her public duties would not permit her to be with the Princess Royal at that time of all others, the hour of nature's trial, when a mother's presence is most desirable and consoling; but it was possible, by starting immediately after the return from Cherbourg, for her Majesty and the Prince Consort to visit Germany and to make a fortnight's stay there. It was therefore arranged that the journey should be made, not precisely incognito, but in a private manner and without any state receptions.

This plan was observed during the first part of the journey from Antwerp, where the royal yacht arrived on the 11th of

August, until the Queen and the Prince, travelling through Rhenish Prussia, reached Hanover on the afternoon of the 14th. The heat of the weather was as great in Germany as it had been at Cherbourg and in England, and the Queen suffered much from the effects of the close and sultry atmosphere. At the railway-station at Malines King Leopold and his second son, Philippe, Count of Flanders, the present heir presumptive to the throne of Belgium, awaited the royal visitors and accompanied them to the frontier at Verviers. At Aix-la-Chapelle they were met by Lord Blomfield, the English minister at Berlin, and by the Prince of Prussia, who, with true courtesy, had arrived to accompany them to their destination at Babelsberg.

At Düsseldorf the Prince and Princess Hohenzollern with the burghers of the town awaited the arrival of the train, and escorted the Queen and the Prince over the bridge of boats across the Rhine, and through streets prettily decorated, to the hotel where they were to remain that night, after a dinner at the Jägerhof, the residence of the Prince of Hohenzollern, on returning from which they were greeted by the assembled people of the town, who had prepared an artistic illumination and a display of fireworks in the grounds and lakes, and by the river side.

As early as six o'clock next morning the travellers were preparing to continue their journey, when a very sorrowful message reached them, which affected both very deeply. The Prince's confidential valet and attendant, a trustworthy, well-educated Swiss named Cart, had died suddenly at Morges. Since the Prince was seven years old Cart had been his faithful and devoted attendant, and had sometimes acted as clerk. With him seemed to disappear the link which recalled to the Prince Consort his early boyhood and the old days at Coburg. Repeatedly

during the journey to Hanover the signs of their grief could scarcely be restrained, though the welcome they met with at various stations where they halted, the floral decorations, the flags, and the glimpses of picturesque landscape would have been delightful but for these feelings and for the exhausting heat and dust. At one of the stations stood the old governess, the Baroness Lehzen, waving her handkerchief. The King and Queen of Hanover, the Princess Frederick Charles of Prussia, the Duke of Brunswick, "Feo Hohenlohe" the Queen's niece, and the Prince of Meiningen, besides many gentlemen, a band and a guard of honour, were at the Hanover station, ready to escort the royal party to the old country palace of Herrenhausen, so full of historical family associations. Here, after luncheon, there was a presentation of ministers and distinguished persons in the garden, where the heat was "broiling," and this gave her Majesty a racking headache, which she took with her on the tedious drive through the town, and the subsequent railway journey to Magdeburg, where Prince Frederick William, strong and radiant, entered the royal compartment with the news that "Vicky was waiting for us at the Wildpark station, and many of the authorities with her."

Was it strange that the remainder of that journey should have seemed so long? The mother's heart was already far in advance of the tardy train, nor could any words be more expressive of the eager, loving expectations of the Queen than those in which she records the meeting with her daughter. "One more stoppage at Brandenburg and we arrived at the Wildpark station. There on the platform stood our darling child, with a nosegay in her hand. She stepped in, and long and warm was the embrace as she clasped me in her arms. So much to say, and to tell, and to ask. Yet so unaltered, looking

well, quite the old Vicky still! It was a happy moment, for which I thank God!"

At Potsdam were the Princess of Prussia and her sister, and thence the happy family party drove to the castle of Babelsberg, where a cordial reception from the old servants awaited them; and after a quiet supper "with our children," the old "good-night" was said to the dear daughter, and there was a sense of home-like reunion and peace; but, "hot, dusty, and tired," the Queen, overcome with the events and emotions of the day, and thinking again of the death of the old faithful servant, cried till she fell asleep.

A quiet day with her dear child in the pleasant sitting-room of the quaint little Gothic castle overlooking beautiful scenery, tree-shaded walks and terraces with fountains, was a grateful rest; but then, and during the whole time of the visit, letters and despatches from Lord Malmesbury and the foreign office demanded attention, and the Indian proclamation, in the draft of which her Majesty had suggested important additions and alterations, had to be carefully considered. Nor did the private nature of the visit and the oppressive heat of the weather exempt the royal visitors from some state observances. There was a "large and dreadfully hot dinner," where the whole legation, foreign ministers, generals, and other important personages, were present, including Manteuffel, who was then, and afterwards when the Prince of Prussia was invested with governing authority as regent, opposed to the desires of the prince to promote a constitutional government for Germany. At this dinner "Manteuffel was most unpleasant, cross, and disagreeable;" probably he did not relish the English influence, added to the marriage of Prince Frederick William with the English Princess Royal. Field-marshal Von Wrangel, however,



carried his seventy-six years gallantly, and was full of glee; delighted with the Princess, whom he called an angel, addressed her Majesty as "My dear Queen" (*Meine liebe Königin*), and said that she looked as though she were going to a ball.

There were visits to the vast gaunt palaces, churches, castles, and other historic buildings, a good deal of sight-seeing for the royal party; and there were a review and a grand field-day, for the whole country was soldiering and almost everybody was always in uniform; but there were quiet, pleasant drives whenever the weather was cool enough, a charming steamboat excursion on the Hafelsee, visits to quaint, old-world villages, and, above all, restful domestic hours in the garden or the terrace, where mother and daughter could occasionally talk undisturbed, and afterwards meet the little family party at a cosy dinner or luncheon, where a distinguished guest might appear—a guest such as the venerable Humboldt, then in his ninetieth year, but bright and ready for fresh, cheerful conversation made interesting by his extensive stores of observation and knowledge.

The birthday of Prince Albert was kept as a family fête-day. There were letters from all the children to be read, and the gift-table to be arranged with the birthday presents. The Prince was taken down to see them, and found that the Queen's presents included a life-size portrait of the little Princess Beatrice, a collection of photographic views of Gotha and the surrounding country, and a paper-weight of Balmoral granite and deer's teeth designed by the Princess Royal, who had presented to her father a small oil-portrait of herself painted by Hartmann, one of her own drawings, and an iron chair for the garden at Balmoral. There was a birthday cake lighted up with candles, one for each year of the Prince's age, the tower and gardens were prettily decorated and illuminated, and a

happy family party met in the evening, the Prince's brother Ernest having come over on a surprise visit from Saxe-Coburg.

The visit was drawing to a close—another day, and the tender farewells had to be uttered. Amidst tears, but with the words “to a speedy meeting again,” the parting came. “All would be comparatively easy,” wrote the Queen, “were it not for the one thought that I cannot be with her at that very critical moment when every other mother goes to her child.” But her Majesty afterwards says: “Yet did I feel grateful, most grateful, for all the great happiness I had enjoyed.”

The journey home was broken by a short stay at Deutz on the Sunday. There, and at the city of Cologne on the opposite bank, the people had prepared a right hearty reception. Streets were decorated, fireworks and illuminations shone out with splendour, the great cathedral lit up so as to glow in one vast mass of red fire, and a shower of fire played from the lofty tower. The next day the royal travellers reached Dover, and went thence by railway to Portsmouth, where the good news awaited them that Prince Alfred had passed with great credit a difficult examination, had received his appointment, and had gone on board the *Euryalus* to report himself. When the delighted parents reached Osborne he was there in his middy's uniform to meet them, “half blushing and looking very happy,” as they landed on the private pier.

The birthday celebrations at Osborne had been deferred, for the children would not forego their exhibition of drawings and models, the evening's recitations and music, and the presentations of their own gifts; among which was one from the Duchess of Kent, who was then at Abergeldie Castle, where the family at Osborne would soon see her on their way to Balmoral, as the Prince took care to tell her in a hearty affectionate letter.

But the Queen and the Prince Consort had pledged themselves to go by way of Leeds for the purpose of opening the fine Town-hall in the great cloth city, to which no former British sovereign had paid a visit. Her Majesty and the Prince, accompanied by the Princess Alice and Helena, were received by the mayor, Mr. Fairbairn, "a perfect picture of a fine old man with dark eyes, snowy hair, and flowing beard, . . . dressed in crimson velvet robes, with a gold chain . . . he looked the personification of a Venetian Doge." He had given up his residence, "Woodley House," to the royal visitors, who, on the following day, had a magnificent and loyal reception during their hour's drive round the town, where the streets, decorated, and in many places spanned with arches bearing the names of the royal children, were crowded with half a million of spectators, and kept in order by 29,000 members of various local societies. The mayor received the honour of knighthood, after the Queen and the Prince had received addresses on the dais—in the great Town-hall, which Lord Derby then declared to be open in the name of her Majesty. The royal party went on to Edinburgh in the afternoon, and next day reached Balmoral—glad indeed to find the rest and refreshment which both the Queen and Prince Albert so greatly needed, though the Prince took his rest and recreation together by vigorous deer-stalking. There was still much to be done, however; Colonel Bruce, who was to be governor to the Prince of Wales, arrived with Mr. Frederick Bruce, the other brother of Lord Elgin, who had brought from China the treaty which he had so important a share in negotiating. The signs that portended war between France and Austria in Italy required watchful attention; the organization of the army in India, which was now more truly a part of the British Empire under the authority of the crown; the war excitement caused in



H R H  
HELENA AUGUSTA VICTORIA  
PRINCESS CHRISTIAN OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

(Copyright)  
from a photo taken in 1855  
By Bassano London





Germany by the attitude of the Emperor of the French at a time when the King of Prussia was incompetent and dying, and the Prince Regent was surrounded by difficulties of administration,—were subjects of practical and immediate moment, and occasioned almost daily memoranda and correspondence with the government even during the parliamentary recess.

In the late autumn Prince Alfred, accompanied by his father and the Prince of Wales, went on board the frigate *Euryalus* at Spithead, which the same evening was to go to sea on the voyage to the Mediterranean station, where it was to remain for two years. "The second child lost to our family circle in one year," the Prince wrote to Baron Stockmar. Simple words, but showing how fondly he clung to those near and dear to him. At Christmastide these domestic sentiments were expressed by the usual homelike courtesies and dear remembrances, and thoughts of the daughter in Berlin and the boy at sea filled the hearts of the royal parents, who sent presents and messages full of lovingkindness, and of the wisdom that finds expression through the affections. Prince Alfred was then at Malta, whence he sailed to Tunis and Algiers: a voyage of pleasure as well as duty, since he was received everywhere with the loyal cordiality that would certainly greet the Queen's sailor son.

The new year (1859) dawned brightly, for the family circle was widened rather than severed. The members of it were still, so to speak, within call. The Queen was anxiously expecting to receive news from Berlin of the birth of a grandchild, and in the midst of much perplexity of mind at the prospect of the war which now seemed inevitable between Austria and France allied with Sardinia, and at the excitement it was causing in Germany, the welcome news arrived that on the 27th of January the princess had given birth to a son, and that,

contrary to some fears that had been entertained, both mother and child were safe and going on well, after much suffering and uncertainty with regard to both. The intelligence was joyfully received not only by the royal family but by the nation, and the still young grandparents record their gratitude to a merciful Providence for so happy a result.

The opening of Wellington College by the Queen, and the subsequent provision of a capital library for the boys, were among the pleasant duties of the first month of the year, and were a fitting sequel to the presentation by the Queen and the Prince of an extensive library for the soldiers during the Crimean war. The selection of books was carefully made by the Prince himself. The library was afterwards divided between Aldershot and Dublin, the chief military centres, and has since been known as the Victoria Soldiers' Libraries, supported by the Queen. Prince Albert had also at his own expense built a library at Aldershot for the officers, and contributed to it a large and complete collection of all the best books on military subjects, at a cost of some thousands of pounds.

The time passed rapidly in constant occupation. The Prince wrote from Windsor to his daughter on the 9th of February: "It was a year yesterday since you made your entry into Berlin, and nineteen years since I made mine into London. I have felt my nineteen years go by not much more slowly than you have felt your one. How will it be after the next nineteen years? A question without answer, and therefore merely sentimental and totally useless."

The next day was the anniversary of the Queen's marriage, and it was celebrated by a great concert in the evening at Windsor Castle. It was always a happy anniversary, full of expressions of regard and thankfulness; and even the Queen's

great disappointment at knowing that she could not be present at the christening of her first grandchild was perhaps mitigated by the thought of all the happiness to herself and the benefit to the nation which had been the result of her own early union. Lord Raglan and Captain (afterwards Lord) de Ros, both well known to the princess, were sent to Berlin to represent the royal grandparents on the occasion. The Prince Consort soon afterwards continued his correspondence with his daughter in half-amusing, half-serious letters concerning her health, the necessity for fresh air, for escaping from "being baked like a bit of pastry in hot rooms," and the bracing effects of the cold bath; letters full of solicitude and domestic interest, varying into references to books and other matters of high and serious import; and not without a reference to the Princess Alice, which showed how her keen active intellect, and intense and responsible tone of character had already made her valuable, if not indispensable, in taking the place that could no longer be occupied by her elder sister.

But to the great joy of the Queen, the Prince, and all those who were still at home, the dear daughter and her husband were at Osborne for an eight days' visit in time to celebrate her Majesty's birthday. The happiness, however, was clouded by the absence of the Duchess of Kent, who was suffering from a sudden and serious illness accompanied with erysipelas, which, at her age, gave great cause for anxiety. For a time the Queen was in great distress. "I hardly myself knew how much I loved her," she wrote to King Leopold, "or how much my whole existence was bound up with her, till I saw looming in the distance the fearful possibility of what I will not mention." The duchess rapidly improved in health, as the messages sent to Osborne showed, but the stay there was made shorter because of her illness.

There had been another separation of a temporary kind in the royal family, in consequence of the arrangements made for the Prince of Wales. Early in the previous year he had been on a pleasure excursion to the south of Ireland with Mr. Gibbs, Captain de Ros, and Dr. Minter before settling down at the White Lodge, Richmond Park, to devote himself to study and to prepare for his military examination. In November, just after his eighteenth birthday, he had conferred upon him the rank of colonel and was invested with the order of the Garter. In January, 1859, after a period of hard work at his studies, it was decided that he should make a tour in Italy, and in the following month he was at Rome. There was then no doubt that Italy would be the scene of hostilities, for the Emperor of the French no longer concealed his intentions, and the Prince therefore left the city and extended his tour to the south of Spain and Lisbon, where he remained till June, when he was to return to Edinburgh to resume his regular course of reading before going to Oxford.

The unaffected, pleasant manner of the Prince of Wales had already been recognized, and he had made good progress in those studies to which his attention had been especially directed. After a private visit which he paid to his sister the Princess Royal accompanied by Mr. Bruce and Colonel Teesdale, a letter from the Prince of Prussia to Prince Albert said of him that he was "all that a parent's heart could desire," and the frankness and courtesy which have ever since made him popular and welcome in any country that he has visited were already his attractive characteristics. His studies included a series of lectures on history by the Rev. Charles Kingsley, who had been nominated one of the Queen's chaplains, and whose books, especially the religious sentiments contained in *Two Years Ago* and *The Saint's Tragedy*, were greatly admired by Prince Albert.

In Edinburgh the Prince Consort held a kind of educational conference with all the persons who were taking part in the education of the Prince of Wales, of whom all his teachers spoke highly. He seemed to have shown genuine zeal and good-will in pursuing his studies, among which came a course of lectures on chemistry in relation to manufactures, by Dr. Lyon Playfair, who, at the close of each special course, accompanied the Prince to some appropriate manufactory to explain its practical application.

Dr. Schmitz, rector of the Edinburgh High School, gave him lectures in Roman history, and he was at the same time advancing in the study of Italian, French, and German. Three times a week there were military exercises with the 16th Hussars, who were stationed in the city; and Mr. Fisher, the tutor who was to accompany the Prince to Oxford, was also with him at Holyrood preparing him in law and history.

His royal highness was to be in residence at Oxford for nine months, and before he returned permanently to London, Marlborough House was to be prepared for him. It had for some time been adapted to the purpose of a picture-gallery, for containing the "Vernon" and "Turner" collections of paintings, which were now to be removed to the new buildings at the South Kensington Museum, where the *Sheepshanks* collection had already been deposited. The new portion of the museum gallery, a large brick building with fire-proof floors, was completed in six weeks at a cost of £3000, and the whole structure at South Kensington was planned for the purpose of holding more or less permanent art and industrial exhibitions. In this scheme the Prince Consort took an active and entirely disinterested part. The Great Exhibition of 1851 had proved to be not only a public and international, but also a great financial success, and the Prince had been deeply gratified by finding



that the guarantors and trustees could settle accounts, leaving a significant balance available for the promotion of exhibitions intended to advance art and industrial education. He had retired from any further personal, official authority after the business of the commission in relation to the Exhibition of 1851 was completed, but his interest in the establishment of permanent, or frequently recurring exhibitions and classes for instruction was unabated, and when the Society of Arts, on the strength of the success of the "World's Show in 1851," proposed to commence arrangements for organizing another such display in 1862, the Prince was solicited to take part with the former commission in carrying out the necessary provisions. It is not surprising that he shrank from it a little, but he did not refuse; though his health had for some time shown symptoms of disturbance, and the number and importance of his engagements scarcely left him time for necessary rest, and still less opportunity for general recreation.

To the anxieties of the year 1859 was added a change of ministry. The government of Lord Derby had thought it necessary to introduce a measure of parliamentary reform, on which Lord John Russell had moved an amendment against a proposed readjustment of the freehold franchise in counties, affirming that no readjustment would satisfy the house or the country unless it provided a greater extension of the suffrage in cities and boroughs than was contemplated in the government measure. The amendment was carried, parliament was dissolved, and the result of a general election was to bring Lord Palmerston again into power.

Not only the Queen and the Prince Consort, but Lord Palmerston also, had now ceased to believe in the good faith of the Emperor of the French, who was pursuing a tentative



policy with the intention of securing the influence of England to support him in his endeavours to make stipulations with Austria, after a series of sanguinary battles in which the Austrian troops had been defeated by the French and Sardinians at Montebello, Palestro, Magenta, Meleguano, and finally on the 24th of June at Solferino.

The declared policy of England was that of strict neutrality. Of the wisdom of this the Queen was convinced, and found it necessary to declare her conviction when her ministers were inclined to accede to the urgent request of the Emperor of the French that the moral support of England should aid him in obtaining a settlement of the Italian question during an armistice.

The terms proposed included the surrender of Lombardy and the Duchies to Sardinia, the separation of Venetia, which was to be an independent state under an archduke, and other conditions which it was thought Austria would not readily comply with, and to compel which, the intervention of England at the instance of France would have been a very serious complication. At the same time Palmerston and many of the ministers who were strongly in favour of Italian independence, and regarded the retirement of Austrian troops from Northern Italy as a necessary step for achieving it, saw that both the emperors were desirous of ending a conflict by which victors and vanquished had suffered severe losses. The situation was such, however, that the difference between material and moral support could not easily be defined, if once our government began so to protest or to dictate that Louis Napoleon might by our intervention obtain terms which he could not otherwise have insisted on except by renewing the war, while Austria would naturally regard England with hatred as the instrument of her humiliation.

The active intervention which would have been included in what the Emperor of the French called moral support was not given, and the two emperors, who met at Villafranca, came to an agreement that Austria should retain Venetia, which, however, was to become one of a corporation of Italian states under the honorary presidency of the Pope; that Lombardy was to be surrendered, though the Dukes of Tuscany and Modena were to be restored to authority, but with an implied understanding (which the Austrian emperor would not afterwards ratify in writing) that force should not be used to reinstate them. Palmerston and others at once saw that these terms were such as to give Austria a continued footing in Italy; but this fact was itself a reason for preserving the neutrality which had been declared; and it was pretty well known that the moral support of the English nation was on the side of the liberation of Italy alike from the usurpation and tyranny of Austria and the interested dictation of France. After the marriage of the Prince Napoleon, the emperor's cousin, with the Princess Clotilde, daughter of Victor Emmanuel, came the cession of Savoy and Nice, to satisfy French demands. But the smouldering fire of revolution sprang into flame in the Duchies after the conclusion of peace between the two contending powers, and the determined struggle for liberty did not cease till Victor Emmanuel was proclaimed King of United Italy and Garibaldi had taken his conquering sword into Sicily.

The condition of affairs in Europe, and particularly the armaments that were raised by France, had influenced the previous government to increase our naval and military establishments by an outlay which made it necessary for Mr. Gladstone, when he became chancellor of the exchequer in the new ministry, to raise the income-tax from fivepence to ninepence

in the pound. The public feeling with regard to the French emperor was that of distrust and suspicion. One of the most striking illustrations of the national sentiment was the remarkable rapidity with which volunteer corps continued to be formed. Writing to his daughter from Osborne on the 8th of December the Prince Consort said: "Volunteer corps are being formed in all the towns. The lawyers of the Temple go through regular drill. Lords Spencer, Abercorn, Elcho, &c., are put through their facings in Westminster Hall by gas-light in the same rank and file with shopkeepers. Close on 50,000 are already under arms."

His letters to the princess were always interesting, mingling a peculiar humour with much tenderness. Descriptive touches, recalling the old home-life and recording the quaint sayings and pretty attractive ways of the Princess Beatrice, still the baby-sister, alternated with serious and loving counsel. His health had been precarious, for he had serious attacks of the gastric disorder from which he too often suffered, and to prevent which more repose and careful attention to personal comfort than he would allow himself were necessary. In the autumn he had accompanied the Queen on a three days' excursion by sea to the Channel Islands, and this had so greatly improved his condition as to prepare him for the dreaded task of presiding at the meeting of the British Association at Aberdeen and delivering the opening address.

One cause of anxiety was temporarily removed by the recovery of the Duchess of Kent, who celebrated her seventy-third birthday at Osborne, where she was present at a rural outdoor fête in her honour; but there was much grief for the recent loss of the Princess Stephanie, the consort of Dom Pedro, King of Portugal, whose sorrowful letters greatly affected the

Queen, and the troubles of foreign complications disturbed even the usual happy celebrations of the Prince's birthday. The journey northward was made, for the first time, by night direct from London to Edinburgh, and at Balmoral the Prince of Wales, and Philippe, Count of Flanders, joined the family circle. Of him the Prince Consort afterwards recorded in a letter to the Princess Royal, who was then enjoying a holiday in the Tyrol, that he had tried in vain to bring down a stag; that Grant had pronounced the appalling sentence on him, "He is just nae good at all;" and that he modestly reproached himself for giving such a world of trouble to no purpose. The Prince of Wales, however, shot a stag at Dhu Loch. The presidential speech to the British Association at Aberdeen had been impressive and successful, and the 200 philosophers who listened to it were invited to Balmoral to a Highland gathering. The weather was unsettled by alternating storm and sunshine, but the pleasure of the fête and the games, which lasted from two till half-past five, was not much diminished. The Queen, who retired when the fun was nearly over, wrote in her journal: "We watched from the window the Highlanders marching away, the different people walking off, and four weighty omnibuses filling with scientific men, . . . Much pleased at everything having gone off well."

The holiday at Balmoral was very pleasant, as the weather was mostly fine, and some very delightful excursions were made, one of them a pony ride and ramble over the hills from Loch Bulig to Inchrory and on to Gairn Shiel. The two young princesses, Helena and Louise, participated in this pleasant excursion, which was greatly enjoyed by the Queen, who was well in health, cheerful, and active. A few days afterwards a more important excursion was made with the Prince of Wales

and the Princess Alice. This expedition was something of an undertaking, since it was for the purpose of ascending Ben Muich Dhui, one of the highest mountains in the British Islands. The feat was safely accomplished, and the grandeur and solitude of the scene much impressed her Majesty, who speaks of the excursion (in the "Leaves" from her journal) with unmingled satisfaction. The presence of the eldest son, who walked with his father, when making the ascent of the mountain, while the bright, intelligent Princess Alice walked or rode beside her mother,—made the occasion a very happy and interesting one; for the hearts of the parents were ever with their children, and the morning news of the well-being of the little ones who had been left at Osborne with the Duchess of Kent was necessary for the happiness of the day.

In a letter to Stockmar the Prince Consort said that the Prince of Wales would accompany the royal party to Edinburgh and Loch Katrine for the opening of the great water-works for the City of Glasgow, and then would go direct to London to pack up and take up residence at Oxford. In the same letter he wrote: "Alice comes out admirably, and is a great support to her mother; Lenchen (the Princess Helena) is very distinguished, and little Arthur amiable and full of promise as ever."

The opening of the Glasgow water-works at the outflow of Loch Katrine, to which the Prince refers, took place on the 14th of October, and was an event of much importance, though the ceremony was simple. Great engineering difficulties had been surmounted. To draw the water from the lake a tunnel 2325 yards long and six feet diameter had been driven six hundred feet below the summit of a mountain, and this was the first of a series of seventy tunnels, measuring altogether thirteen miles, while three and a half miles of bog was traversed by iron pipes,



and nearly ten miles of aqueduct had to be carried across rivers and valleys. The supply of pure water was estimated at fifty million gallons daily, and the cost of the undertaking was about a million and a half of money. The ceremony of receiving an address, replying to it, and putting in motion the machinery by which the water was admitted to the tunnel was performed by the Queen amidst a tempest of rain; but a large assembly welcomed her Majesty, who, with the Prince and the royal party, returned to Edinburgh, and next day started homeward by way of Chester that they might visit Colonel Douglas Pennant (afterwards Lord Penrhyn) at Penrhyn Castle, near Bangor; a call which gave the Prince an opportunity of seeing the Penrhyn slate-quarries and listening to the excellent singing of Handel's choruses by a choir of the workmen.

Immediately after returning to Windsor, Prince Albert made a brief visit to the Prince of Wales at Oxford. The weather was suddenly and bitterly cold, and he appeared to suffer from the effects of a chill, which brought on the gastric malady to which he was liable; but after two or three days of warmth and rest he was better, his complete recovery being probably aided by the arrival of the Princess Royal with her husband, the Prince Frederick William, from Berlin, to keep the birthday of the Prince of Wales at Windsor, and to spend a happy four weeks' holiday in the dear old home. They could not remain for the closing festivities of the year, but letters full of lively, humorous descriptions and tender regard were written to the beloved daughter after her return to Berlin, and all the bright and cheerful associations of the Christmas season were observed. "We have passed the pleasant season peacefully and cheerfully," wrote the Prince on the 28th of December, "and the children were and still are in raptures." The new year was "danced in"

as usual, and on the 3d of January, 1860, the Queen wrote to King Leopold: "We began 1860 very peaceably and happily, and I never remember spending a pleasanter New Year's Day, surrounded by our children and dear mama. It is really extraordinary how much our good children did for the day in writing, reciting, and music."

The first important political event of the new year was the appointment of Mr. Cobden with full powers to negotiate a treaty of commerce with France, by which the principles of free-trade were to be introduced by mutual concessions, to which the emperor was eventually willing to lend his influence though they were in opposition to the opinions of some of his advisers. There were advocates of free-trade in France, however, and Mr. Cobden's tact and persuasive logic, aided, probably, by the continued desire of Louis Napoleon to maintain friendly relations with this country and with our Queen and government, effected an agreement which had an enormous influence on our trade with France, and by opening the way to a diminution of the customs duty on light wines made considerable changes by the common introduction of these beverages to British dinner-tables.

The provisions of the French commercial treaty was one of the principal questions referred to in the royal speech when on the 24th of January her Majesty opened parliament in person. The occasion was an important one. A strong and influential government was in power, by which various sections of the Liberal party were united. The affairs of Italy had so far concluded with a cessation of hostilities; and though the congress of the great powers which had been proposed by the Emperor of the French for the pacific settlement of the Italian question had been frustrated by the unreasonable demand of Austria that

the preliminary to the conference should be a general disarmament, the whole matter was likely to be taken out of the sphere of intervention by the revolution through which the Italian people themselves were casting off the foreign yoke, dethroning the impotent rulers of the Duchies, and rising to independence. The question of parliamentary reform was brought into prominence by her Majesty's reference to a new measure to be brought in for placing the representation of the people on a broader and firmer basis; but, as it afterwards turned out, the measure, when it was afterwards proposed by Lord John Russell, met only with indifference, and was not pursued till a later date. The entire suppression of the Indian mutiny and the restoration of order and government to the country was announced; and the presence in China of the allied French and English forces gave some emphasis to the allusions to those communications that were carried on with the Emperor of the French "with a view to extend the commercial intercourse between the two countries, and thus to draw still closer the bonds of friendly alliance between them." These and the acceptance of the extensive offer of voluntary service received from all ranks, were the principal topics dwelt on by her Majesty.

The opening of parliament of 1860 by the Queen was an important event because of the political situation both in foreign and home affairs, while it acquired some domestic interest from the circumstance that the Princesses Alice and Helena were then present for the first time on such an occasion. "Alice has become a handsome young woman of graceful form and graceful presence, and is a help and stay to us all in the house," the Prince wrote at that time.

The twentieth anniversary of the royal marriage was observed with the usual domestic festivities at Windsor, the children who





Engraved by J. W. G. 1841

THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BY HER MAJESTY

JANUARY, 1841

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were at home having prepared a series of *tableaux vivants* as a surprise entertainment in St. George's Hall. A letter from the Prince Consort to his old friend Stockmar expressed the deep, abiding sentiments of affection and loyalty which the day suggested, and a postscript by the Queen endorsed them. Writing to Stockmar had already become a pathetic duty, for the old man's health was failing, and he was already, as it were, preparing to cross the narrow but mysterious barrier to the world of realities. The Queen and the Prince had lost sight of many of those who had already departed, and among public men whose recent death had been a great loss, the Prince Consort mentioned Macaulay, Brunel, and Lord de Grey. Lord Aberdeen was also very feeble, wearing slowly to the "land o' the leal;" and Robert Stephenson, who with Brunel had represented the stupendous advance of railway and engineering enterprise in public works, had passed away.

But amidst private griefs and domestic happiness the demands of social and public duties had to be recognized and fulfilled. Among those that claimed attention in 1860 the formation of Volunteer Corps, to which the Prince Consort had given earnest attention, was prominent. In the preceding year he had carefully thought over the difficulty of giving permanence to a voluntary body "dependent on temporary enthusiasm and the temporary agreement amongst themselves of a certain number of individuals who may probably change soon after their first formation, and who can transfer to others neither their original enthusiasm nor their mutual agreement." These words were used by the Prince in a memorandum (made in May, 1859) of a plan for organizing volunteer artillery and coast defences; and it is now very well known that the whole volunteer force soon after assumed an imposing strength, the permanent maintenance

of which has been justified by nearly thirty years of improved and most remarkable efficiency; but it should be remembered that at the very outset of the consent of the government to authorize the formation of volunteer rifle and artillery corps, the Prince was ready with a plan for their organization as a permanent means of defence, in the readiness and competency of which the country might have confidence. In a carefully prepared series of instructions to lords-lieutenants which (on the 20th of May) he sent to General Peel, secretary of war, the conclusions at which he had arrived were so plainly and practically set forth that they were adopted at once by the cabinet, and issued on the 25th to lords-lieutenants throughout the kingdom as a code for the organization and working of the volunteer corps.

The extraordinary popularity of the movement, and the efficiency with which it was being conducted, were conspicuous when, on the 7th of March, 1860, the Queen held a levee at St. James's Palace to receive the officers of the newly-formed corps. About 2500 attended, representing a force of 70,000 men. Earl Grey in addressing the officers said it would depend on themselves whether the movement was to be worthy of England, or whether it was to become a mere laughing-stock. He thought that before the end of the summer the numbers would reach to 100,000. As a matter of fact the numbers that were enrolled brought the force up to 180,000, of whom 40,000 had been formed into battalions and so well trained and drilled that they were declared, after competent official inspection, to be fit to take their place in an actual engagement.

The Queen and the Prince Consort were preparing for a further temporary separation from their two elder sons. Prince Alfred was at Windsor for his confirmation, which took place on the 5th of April, and his father was assiduously careful that

he should apprehend the practical and earnest religious life so important to those who are, perhaps, especially liable to temptations, and whose avocation (like that of a naval officer) brings them into the midst of a rough kind of experience. The young prince was found to possess a clear and logical faculty, which his earnest desire to learn, enabled him to apply to the subjects brought before him in ordinary studies, and not less to those practical religious doctrines, apart from dogmas, which his father was so anxious to impress upon him. He was soon to depart on a voyage to the Cape; and it may be noted here that on board the *Euryalus* he had hitherto been treated in precisely the same manner as if he had been the son of a private gentleman, taking the watch and performing other duties with other midshipmen. It is on record that one of the privileges which they indulged in—that of smoking—was denied to the prince, who was strictly forbidden to indulge in the noxious weed.

At the same time that Prince Alfred was to make his voyage to the Cape, the Prince of Wales was to terminate his nine months' studies at Oxford, and to visit Canada, in fulfilment of a promise that had been made by the Queen to a Canadian deputation who, during the Crimean War, had come to beg that her Majesty would visit her American possessions. It was represented that the risk and fatigue of the journey would be too great for the Queen to be permitted to undertake it; and in reply to a request that one of the princes should go to Canada as governor-general, the promise was given that as soon as the Prince of Wales was old enough to do so he should visit the country. This was now to be fulfilled, and the visit was to be made the occasion for the Prince to open the great railway bridge across the St. Lawrence at Montreal, and lay the foundation-stone of the new buildings for the Canadian parliament at Ottawa.

It was announced that the Prince, accompanied by the Duke of Newcastle, secretary of state for the colonies, would probably arrive in Canada early in July, and three screw steam-vessels and the royal paddle-yacht were ordered to be ready at Spithead to convey him across the Atlantic, with Captain George H. Seymour as commodore, commanding the *Hero*, screw-steamer of 91 guns, in which his royal highness was to take his passage. The *Osborne* paddle-yacht steamer was for the purpose of service on the Canadian coasts and rivers during the stay of his royal highness in the colony.

On the 27th April the Prince Consort in a long letter to Baron Stockmar wrote: "Alfred leaves us on Tuesday next to make his long voyage to the Cape of Good Hope by way of Rio Janeiro. It will be a strange and noteworthy circumstance that almost in the same week in which the elder brother is to open the great bridge across the St. Lawrence in Canada, the younger will lay the foundation-stone for the breakwater for the harbour at Cape Town at the other end of the world. What a cheering picture is here of the progress and expansion of the British race, and of the useful co-operation of the royal family in the civilization which England has developed and advanced!"

While these preparations were being made in the early days of April another loss brought sorrow to the Queen and the Prince. The Prince Ernest of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, the honest and truly estimable husband of the Queen's loved sister, had died at Baden-Baden. The letters of her Majesty to the sister who had always so entirely sympathized with her in all her joys and sorrows were tender and comforting, and general expressions of sincere regard and respect accompanied the regrets at the loss of the prince, whose honour and integrity were conspicuous, and who had worthily sustained the office

of president of the upper chamber of Würtemberg, where he possessed the confidence and regard of the king.

Notwithstanding increasing engagements and presiding at important meetings during the spring and early summer, when the season of concerts, balls, dinners, and "Ascot the delectable" brought the court and the Queen from Osborne at the time when real rest and enjoyment might have been found in that charming retreat; the Prince Consort, who seemed to make time for everything by the sacrifice both of recreation and rest, took the opportunity of a short stay at Windsor,—during the time of the races,—for setting in order the details of the programme to be followed by the Prince of Wales in his visit to Canada. There were several distinguished guests at Windsor Castle, including the King of the Belgians and his second son, and the young Prince Louis of Hesse and his brother.

So completely had the details of the proposed journey been followed by the Prince Consort that the peculiar differences of each part of the Dominion at which his son would stop had been carefully noted, and memoranda which would be useful in framing replies that should be made to the addresses presented to him were supplied to the Duke of Newcastle. These were all used for the purpose for which they were designed, and with happy effect.

The visitors were leaving Windsor, but before the two young Princes of Hesse-Darmstadt took their departure the Queen and the Prince Consort had observed that between the elder (Louis) and the Princess Alice there was a mutual regard which, though there had been no declaration of love on the part of the prince, was likely to be expressed by overtures from the young man's family. There was no reason for interposing, as the Prince Louis was a fine manly youth of ingenuous disposition,



and excellent character, and as heir presumptive of the grand-duchy held a position which did not forbid his aspiring to the hand of the second daughter of the Queen, who, however, agreed with her husband to "hear, see, and say nothing," as the homely maxim expresses it.

There were so many engagements to fulfil during the following month that every day was occupied. Prince Albert had consented to be president of the Fine Arts Commission, and of that for the exhibition of 1862, and beside having to go to Oxford to resign his presidency of the British Association, he had undertaken later in the season to open a statistical international congress. The distribution of prizes at Wellington College, laying the foundation stone of a dramatic college, and presiding at a banquet at St. James' Palace to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the formation of the Grenadier Guards, to the command of which he had succeeded the Duke of Wellington eight years before—were performed, not only with eminent success, but with such distinguished ability that even those who were acquainted with the rare attainments of the Prince Consort wondered at the vivid yet exact language he employed, and at his mastery of simple and forcible English. His address delivered to the Statistical Congress showed such a command of the subject, and was so lucid in argument and arrangement, that it was afterwards translated into French for circulation abroad. This was perhaps the best, and it was also the last, of the exhaustive and important speeches that the Prince delivered, and it was regarded as a model of closeness and accuracy of statement and of argumentative force, even by eminent statisticians and practised mathematicians and scientists who were present on the occasion.

This important congress was held on the 16th of July, and

in the previous month the immense development of the Volunteer movement had been signaled by a review held by her Majesty in Hyde Park. On the 23d of June, at four o'clock, the Queen, Princess Alice, Prince Arthur, and the King of the Belgians entered the park in an open carriage, beside which rode the Prince Consort, who was greatly interested in the review and delighted at its results, since it was quite evident that the men who had assembled there in a great volunteer army had been so earnestly working at military exercises that even officers of the regular forces could find little to criticise in the precision and regularity which they displayed. The royal party drove along to the extreme left of the line of volunteers on the Bayswater Road, and thence along the whole front to the extreme right at Albert Gate. The Queen and suite then took up their station at the royal stand, which had been erected about the centre of Park Lane, when the whole vast body of volunteers, numbering 21,000 men, commenced to march past in companies. This accomplished, and the corps having regained their original position, the line advanced in battalion columns and cheered her Majesty by signal in a manner which was affectingly earnest. It was computed that of the great force assembled, 15,000 belonged to the metropolis, and 6000 to the provinces. About 1800 men came from Woolwich alone, 2000 from Manchester, 1800 from the city of London, 450 from the Inns of Court. At six o'clock the review was over, and her Majesty left the park; by eight o'clock the volunteer army had left the scene without accident or confusion, a result which clearly showed to what efficiency they and their officers had rapidly attained.

Public interest was naturally directed to the first meeting of the National Rifle Association, which took place a few days afterwards (July 2d) at Wimbledon Common, for at the camp

and the shooting-butts and targets there was great excitement, not only because the skill of the volunteer marksmen would there be tested and some valuable prizes would be awarded, but also because the Queen herself would open the proceedings by firing the first shot and making "a centre," and had already offered a prize of £250 to go with the gold medal of the association.

The scene at Wimbledon was striking and full of interest; for the weather was brilliant, the sky clear, and the tents of the camp looked very picturesque on the expanse of the furze-clad common. On the arrival of the Queen, an address was presented to her by Mr. Sydney Herbert as president of the association, and her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Albert, then went to a tent where Mr. Whitworth had so adjusted one of his rifles that on the Queen touching the trigger the flutter of a red and white flag before the target signalled "a bull's eye," and therefore her Majesty, according to the rules, had scored three points. For six days afterwards the competitions continued among the 292 volunteers who entered for the regulated prizes, and 594 who went for those which were open to all comers. The first Queen's prize with the gold medal was won by Mr. Ross of the 7th North York, who in the final contest made eight points at 800, seven points at 900, and nine points at 1000 yards.

On the 10th of July the Prince of Wales sailed for Plymouth on his voyage to Canada, accompanied by the Duke of Newcastle, Lord St. Germans, General Bruce and Colonel Teesdale, Captain Grey and Dr. Acland. His return was not expected till the middle of October, as Mr. Buchanan, the president of the United States, had written to the Queen, earnestly inviting the prince to visit Washington; and the invitation having been

accepted, he was to come back by way of the States, travelling privately under the title of Lord Renfrew. The president wrote:

“TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

“I have learned from the public journals that the Prince of Wales is about to visit your Majesty’s North American dominions. Should it be the intention of his royal highness to extend his visit to the United States, I need not say how happy I should be to give him a cordial welcome to Washington. You may be well assured that everywhere in this country he will be greeted by the American people in such a manner as cannot fail to prove gratifying to your Majesty. In this they will manifest their deep sense of your domestic virtues as well as their conviction of your merits as a wise, patriotic, and constitutional sovereign.—Your Majesty’s most obedient Servant,

“JAMES BUCHANAN.”

To this her Majesty replied:

“QUEEN VICTORIA TO PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.

“My good Friend,—I have been much gratified at the feelings which prompted you to write to me inviting the Prince of Wales to come to Washington. He intends to return from Canada through the United States, and it will give him great pleasure to have an opportunity of testifying to you in person that these feelings are reciprocated by him. He will thus be able, at the same time, to mark the respect which he entertains for the chief magistrate of a great and friendly state and kindred nation. The Prince of Wales will drop all royal state on leaving my dominions, and travel under the name of Lord Renfrew, as he has done when travelling on the continent of Europe. The Prince Consort wishes to be kindly remembered to you.—I remain, your very good Friend,

“VICTORIA R.”

On July 23d the Prince landed at Newfoundland, and was received at St. John’s with immense enthusiasm. The intelligence that the royal squadron was in the offing had spread with

marvellous rapidity, and almost immediately the city was full of excitement, and thousands of banners, flags, and decorations were displayed from offices, warehouses, shipping in the port, public buildings, churches, and even private residences. On the landing of the Prince a multitude of people had assembled, including the captain and officers of the French war steamer *Sesostris*, and members of the civil and military authorities of the place; and the cheers became deafening as he was received by a guard of honour of the Newfoundland companies on the wharf and of the volunteer rifle companies, who were drawn up outside the gate. The streets were hung with flags, every window and balcony was crowded. Immediately after his arrival at Government House his royal highness received addresses from various societies and public bodies, to which he replied in excellent terms. In the evening the principal buildings were illuminated, and a grand public ball was held in a gorgeous pavilion decorated with many-coloured flags, banners, and ribbons.

The bands of her Majesty's ship *Hero* and of the various regiments greatly contributed to the success of the demonstration. A dais was erected in the grand saloon for his royal highness. There were thousands of persons of all ranks present. The Prince, wearing the full uniform of a British colonel, arrived at about ten o'clock, and was greeted with loud, enthusiastic, and prolonged cheers—the band playing "God save the Queen." He was accompanied by the Earl of St. Germans and the Duke of Newcastle in full uniform. The records of the period say that he danced six times during the evening, and remained with the company until half-past two in the morning. The dancing among the company was not altogether very good, and it was said that the Prince, who was known to be an accomplished dancer, very affably and good-naturedly corrected



some of the blunders, and every now and then called out the different figures of the dance. He was repeatedly cheered, and he very properly took a new partner whenever he stood up to dance.

At Halifax, where the visitors arrived on the 30th, the reception was equally enthusiastic, the festivities as hearty; in fact, in the latter place they seem to have been so general that there was nobody left to bring out the newspapers, and therefore their publication was suspended, and no immediate local chronicle of the "high jinks" appeared. The *New York Herald* was again to the fore, however, and in the American manner took the opportunity to adorn its columns with sensational headings as follows:—"The Novelty in Halifax!" "The Prince of Wales on Horseback in a Drenching Rain." "Reviews the Troops and Volunteers, and Likes being Lionized." "Visits the Rustic Playground, and is delighted with the Greased Pole, the Indian Races, Catching Pigs, and the Fun Generally." "The Ball Last Night," "&c. &c. &c."

The descriptive reporter said:—"The Prince rode out in plain costume yesterday afternoon (30th), and received a drenching before he returned; but he sat his horse as coolly in the rain as at starting. At half-past seven he dined at the Government House with Lord Mulgrave and a party of forty-six ladies and gentlemen. This morning, at eleven o'clock, the Prince left the Government House in the uniform in which he landed, and in company with all the members of his suite rode to the common to review the troops in the garrison and the volunteers. He was received on all sides with enthusiastic cheers from the immense concourse of people collected round the field. The troops consisted of the 62d and 63d Regiments, a company of engineers, and five volunteer companies of infantry and one of artillery.

. . . He subsequently rode between the lines, appearing to enjoy the whole amazingly. He was continually smiling and chatting with the officers near him, and he evidently likes being lionized. At twenty minutes to two he left the field amid a salute from the volunteer artillery, which was the only firing that took place. He next inspected the citadel, and returned to the Government House to luncheon, after which he returned to the common to witness the rustic sports. The Indians in their sports all wore their national costume, and attracted much attention. The tribe of Micmacs performed a war-dance before him. Seven thousand people were assembled around him at this time. He laughed heartily at the ludicrous games and scenes, and appeared very much interested in the foot-racing. He dined at half-past seven, with fifty guests, at the Government House.

. . . The ball is a great success, and Albert Edward is in his glory. He is fond of gaiety and excitement. It is amusing to observe the eyes of the ladies in the room and gallery watching his every movement and gesture, and casting envious glances at his fortunate partners. I heard more than one whisper, 'What a beautiful dancer!' as he glided in the waltz. He rests his partner frequently, and fills up the interval with cheerful conversation and remarks upon the company. His finest feature is his nose, which is becoming prominent, and nearly a Roman. The weather is beautifully fine, and all Halifax is one grand carnival."

Unfortunately for the veracity of the sensation headings, the Prince was not present at the sports and games, the running in sacks, and the climbing greasy poles. He did not make his appearance till he went from Government House to the ball at the "Province" House, or house of the Nova Scotia parliament. The various apartments of this building, however, were not

spacious enough to furnish a ball-room and supper-room for 1200 persons, and accordingly the largest assembly-room was given up to refreshments, and special wooden structures were erected for dancing and supper, the decorations, including vast quantities of flowers, making the various corridors and apartments, as well as the chief rooms, canopied like tents in pink and white, eminently attractive.

An authentic record says that the Prince, who had during his progress to the review won all hearts by his pleasant, affable bearing and the easy grace with which he sat a horse rendered rather restive by the volleys of shouting and the helter-skelter of the crowd, arrived at the ball at ten o'clock, and opened it by a quadrille in which he danced with Lady Mulgrave. He next danced with Lady Milne, and then chose partners for himself in every succeeding dance till he quitted the room to supper, and on his return resumed dancing till two o'clock in the morning, when he took his departure, accompanied to his carriage by nearly all the company, who bade him farewell with hearty cheers and applause.

One exceedingly charming incident occurred during the morning procession as it turned out of the street leading from the dockyard and wound up the hill to the parade. Over the whole parade-ground had been erected an immense bench of seats, something like the orchestra of the Crystal Palace, which held nearly 3000 children, the sons and daughters of the citizens. All were very nicely dressed, and looked at a distance, in the gay confusion of colours, like a huge flower-bed framed in by the arches and flags and evergreen in the background in a bright, striking picture. At the foot of the gallery the Prince reined in his horse while the children sang "God save the Queen" with all the strength and harmony of their little voices.

The first verse was very well given—so well that the Prince made them a low bow as the second was proceeding, and this put an end to the music; for, carried away by enthusiasm at the graceful compliment, two or three rosy little girls and boys began to cheer, and in a second they all rose and shouted, clapped their hands, and waved bonnets, caps, and handkerchiefs in a vivid and spontaneous burst of juvenile enthusiasm which was really touching.

The tour of his royal highness in the Lower Provinces was to conclude at Charlottetown, Prince Edward's Island, but there was yet much to do before he reached Quebec and Montreal, where great preparations were made for his reception. On the night of the 2d of August he arrived at St. John, New Brunswick, and landed the next morning. The lieutenant-governor the Hon. Manners Sutton was in attendance with his staff to escort the carriages in which the Prince, his suite, and the officials formed a procession to the house which had been fitted up for his royal highness. The streets were crowded with people and the fine corps of volunteer "fire companies," in handsome uniforms and with decorated fire-engines, kept the line of route; but the assembled multitude were so eager to gaze on the Prince that they forgot to cheer, and the same eager silent curiosity was displayed by a company of pretty little children, dressed in white and with blue sashes, who were assembled on the lawn in front of the Prince's house to strew flowers on his path and to sing the national anthem. These innocents, however, could do nothing but stare eagerly and clap their hands, till they suddenly remembered or were reminded of their duties, when the singing commenced out of all time, and the smiling Prince was almost pelted with the bouquets which were wildly flung at him in an outburst of exuberant infantine loyalty.

It was an interesting circumstance that a table, easy-chair, and two or three other articles of furniture in the sitting-room at the plain but handsomely appointed house, were those that had been used by the Prince's grandfather, the Duke of Kent, during his stay at St. John. The Prince reached Quebec on the 18th, where in spite of rainy weather a splendid reception had been prepared on his debarkation at the beautiful city. Under a handsome pavilion stood the officers of state and chief dignitaries of the city in robes and uniforms. In the background a spacious balcony of seats was crowded with enthusiastic visitors; the scene from the river was very striking. When the Prince had landed and was received at the pavilion, the mayor read an address. The Prince replied with an emphasis which enabled everyone present to hear him:—"Be assured that her Majesty will receive with no little satisfaction the account of my reception among you, proving as it does that her feelings towards the people are met on their part by the most loyal and devoted attachment to herself, her throne, and her family. Still more will she rejoice to hear from your own lips that all differences of origin, language, and religion are lost in one universal spirit of patriotism, and that all classes are knit to each other, and to the mother country, by the common ties of equal liberty and free institutions."

A procession, partly of carriages and partly on foot, was then formed and moved up through the town. All the streets were beautifully decorated, trees were set in the ground at the edge of all the footpaths, houses were screened in with deep ornamental balconies of evergreens and transparencies, and lofty arches crowded all the main thoroughfares. Troops appeared everywhere along the route in a regular line, and in the streets promiscuously. As his royal highness passed along the cannon



thundered, the flags waved, and the people cheered. Scotchmen with bagpipes, volunteer rifle corps, artillerymen, infantry, common councilmen, and citizens in carriages escorted him.

His royal highness passed through the city for the greater part of its entire length, issuing from the St. Louis Gate, on his way to Cataraqui, the residence of Sir Edmund Head, the Governor-general of Canada. In the evening Quebec was effectively illuminated.

Next day the Prince attended divine service at the Anglican cathedral, when he was met at the porch by the bishop and the clergy. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Houseman, the bishop's chaplain.

There were excursions to be made to the falls and elsewhere, and it was not till the 23d that the party left for Three Rivers by the steamer *Kingston*, reaching Montreal on the following day but not landing till the 25th in consequence of the bad weather. There the Prince was received by the members of the government and the civic officials and members of parliament, the commander of the forces and his staff, and the Anglican and Roman bishops and clergy. The volunteer corps formed a guard of honour, and it was computed that 40,000 people were present. A procession was made through the city amidst enthusiasm to the exhibition, which was opened with great *éclat*, and in the afternoon he again went through the handsomely decorated streets to lay the corner-stone of the Victoria Bridge, and after a luncheon at the buildings of the Grand Trunk Railway Company returned to the house of the commander of the forces, which had been specially fitted up for his royal highness and the suite. In the evening the city was illuminated, and there was a splendid display of fireworks on the Victoria Bridge.

From Montreal, and the quaint, tall marine limestone houses

of its silent streets, the Prince continued his journey for Ottawa, alternately travelling by rail and boat. At St. Anne the royal party embarked for Carillon by steamer, and the St. Anne river, its wide, dark, and rapid stream, its high, steep, thickly wooded banks, its tree-covered islands, was a picturesque sight.

After reaching Carillon the journey was continued by steamer to Ottawa, and 1200 lumbermen in light birch-bark gaily-painted canoes, each of which carried from six to fifteen men arrayed in scarlet tunics, came out to meet the vessel, the strange rhythmical chant of the men in the bows of the canoes, and the rough, quick chorus of the rowers keeping time to the beat of the paddles as the gay flotilla flashed and flitted lightly down the river, hovering about the steamer, with which they kept pace without difficulty. The shifting mass of the scarlet canoes, the bold, picturesque headlands, on which a new town was to be built, the grand falls of the river Ottawa in the distance boiling up into a cloud of spray, combined in a wild and beautiful scene, though the rain fell in torrents. The Prince and his suite landed at Ottawa just before dark, and there was a royal salute, but the rain prevented any attempt to form a procession. The Roman Catholic cathedral and the Victoria Hotel were the two most important buildings in the place, and the royal party went to the latter, less distinguished visitors doing as they best could.

The next day was bright and sunny, and the Prince laid the foundation-stone of the new parliament buildings, the entrance to the inclosed grounds being under a very handsome Gothic arch, and the open space being furnished with tiers of seats filled by several thousand spectators, while the roads leading to the spot were lined with volunteers, bands of music, lumbermen

in scarlet, and members of Orange societies who came from the surrounding country on horseback and wore orange frocks.

A short levee was held, and the Prince then drove round the town. Some singularly beautiful triumphal arches had been erected in the streets, where a long line or rather a tumultuous confused crowd of vehicles of all descriptions followed splashing through the mud. After a déjeuner his royal highness visited the lumber arch, the falls of the Ottawa, and the timber shoots, amidst crowds of people who cheered him to the echo. From the suspension bridge over the falls the royal party returned under the lumber arch, a wonderful structure in form resembling the Marble Arch at Hyde Park, but built entirely of planks of raw deal laid one over the other without nail or fastening, 200,000 lineal feet of plank having been used in the construction.

From this arch the Prince went down the banks of the stream to one of the largest shoots, where a raft had been prepared for him and his suite to make the descent.

These timber shoots are constructed to carry to the main stream the great masses of "lumber" that are brought down to the falls of the Ottawa, as the logs would be destroyed if they were allowed to go over the falls themselves. A portion of the river is therefore dammed off above the falls and turned into a broad wide channel constructed of timber, and taken at a sharp incline along the banks of the stream. Down this the waters of the Ottawa rush at a tremendous speed. The head of the shoot is about 300 yards above the falls, and it terminates in the still water of the river about three-quarters of a mile beyond their base. To allow the great rafts to make a sheer run would be to destroy them and all who were upon them, and therefore the shoot is broken at intervals by straight runs, along which the raft glides till it reaches another fall, down which it goes with

a headlong rush. Where only a fall of three or four feet is reached the raft drops perpendicularly over with a tremendous flop, and wallows a foot or so under the water till it rights itself and is borne onward again by the accelerated current. A raised bridge or platform is provided for the lumberers to stand on, or they would be washed off by the boiling torrent when the raft is submerged after each plunge from shoot to shoot. The raft consists of from fifteen to twenty trees with two transverse ones to secure them at each end, and of course care was taken to ensure strength and careful guides for the structure on which the Prince was to rush down the shoot seated on a raised plank between the Duke of Newcastle and the Governor-general. When the rope that held the mass of timber against the current was cut, the raft swam with a slow stately motion towards the narrowing shoot where the incline began. Then the speed quickened, the first leap was coming; everybody held on; and with a quivering gliding leap, the mass slid over the edge and went rushing on, racing with the swift water that came surging over the timbers at each successive fall. The sensation, to the uninitiated, partook of a fearful joy. It was something between flying and swimming: even those of the suite who were wet to the knees thought it a delightful experience; and when in a wonderfully short time the big raft swam calmly into the centre of the river below the falls, the only regret expressed by his royal highness was that the journey had not been twice as long.

Next day was Sunday, and on Monday the journey was continued to Kingston, where Orangeism was so rampant that nothing would induce its stubborn representatives to forego a demonstration according with their own views, in defiance of the feelings of the rest of the population. The result was that the Prince declined to land there at all and went on to Toronto,

where he met with a magnificent reception though the weather was still most unfavourable. The rain fell in torrents, but did not prevent a brilliant illumination of the city. Here also the Orangemen having erected an arch endeavoured to compel the Prince to countenance a turbulent party demonstration, and on being remonstrated with, assumed an offensively hostile demeanour; but the affair was afterwards adjusted by the masters of the lodges removing the flags and mottoes which gave a sinister expression to what should have been signs of loyal welcome. The great majority of the Orange body afterwards repudiated these attempts made at Kingston and Toronto, and at London, the little West Canadian town, the Prince had a truly hearty and loyal reception before he proceeded to Sarnia on Lake Huron, the western terminus of the Grand Trunk Railway, where a hundred and fifty Chippewa Indians, real red men with their chiefs, came and gave him a grave and solemn greeting, expressing their loyalty to the Queen, to which he responded much to their satisfaction, at the same time presenting each with a handsome silver medal to commemorate his visit.

On reaching Niagara his royal highness abandoned all appearance of state, and began to enjoy the liberty of riding or walking without being followed by enthusiastic crowds. His attention was, of course, mainly directed to the wonders of the Falls, which he explored in every way practicable to the most experienced visitor; but his first view of the cataracts was such as had never been seen before, for they were completely illuminated by about two hundred enormous Bengal-lights, twenty of which were placed behind the sheet of water itself. The effect was sublime and indescribable, a sea of crystal, a river of silver, a vast cascade of diamonds, with all the surrounding trees and wild rugged rocks thrown into strong relief, and a luminous



cloud overhanging all. The lights were afterwards changed from white to red, and the effect was exceedingly grand and awe-inspiring. Before the Prince left Niagara he witnessed the performance of Mr. Blondin, who walked across the Falls on a rope, carrying a man on his back, and afterwards crossed on stilts.

At Detroit the citizens would not recognize the abandonment of state ceremonial by the Prince, but gave him an enthusiastic welcome, and he entered his hotel escorted by the militia, the fire-brigade, and the civic officials. At night the streets were illuminated, and next day he found it impossible to drive through the city on account of the dense crowds. He left in the afternoon for Chicago with a royal salute. From Chicago he and his suite were to have three days' shooting on the prairies, staying at the little prairie village of Dwight, and travelling thence to St. Louis and to Cincinnati. At both these places the reception was such as to show that his incognito would not be acknowledged, and he good-naturedly discarded it so far as to hold a levee at St. Louis, and to attend a grand ball given in his honour at the opera-house at Cincinnati, where he had to be taken into his residence by a private way to avoid the enthusiastic demonstrations of the crowd.

On his progress to Washington, numbers of people assembled at the various stations, and the Prince responded to their kindly welcome from the rear platform of the car. At Baltimore, a procession escorted him from one depot to the other through the principal streets; and on his arrival at Washington in the afternoon, he was received at the White House by the President in a genial and informal manner, but with words of sincere welcome to the American capitol. A select and sumptuous banquet was served in the evening, and on the following day

the royal party commenced a round of visits to the objects of interest in the city. At Mount Vernon, whither the Prince was accompanied by the President and members of the cabinet, his royal highness was requested to plant a chestnut-tree upon a little mound not far from the tomb of Washington.

On several occasions the curiosity of the people was somewhat embarrassing, as though they expected to find in his manner and appearance something entirely new to American experience; but the good-humour and frank courtesy which has always been his characteristic was not wanting in this his first great tour, and his appearance and manner won hearty good-will wherever he appeared. The *New York Herald*, summing up its conclusions on this matter, said that there was a universal desire to pay him respect and to do him honour, and that the affections had been widely enlisted in his welfare, a declaration which was endorsed by the sometimes free and homely, but frequently genial and approving remarks made among the multitudes who thronged the streets.

At Richmond, the capital of "the Old Dominion," to which he paid a flying visit, the Prince and his companions were less courteously treated by a small crowd of dirty roughs, who followed them as they walked to see the capitol and made audible and insulting remarks, but this was an unimportant exception.

At New York, however, the demonstrations were overwhelming, and the enormous crowds that assembled, and appeared not only in the broad thoroughfares but at windows and on house-tops, were enthusiastic. Cannons saluted from the battery, the distinguished visitor was received by the principal citizens, and after a review of the militia proceeded along Broadway in an open carriage drawn by six horses. Seats sold in the Broad-

way at from five to twenty dollars each, flags waved, handkerchiefs fluttered, cheers resounded from half a million of people in the great thoroughfare. A section of the Irish population protested against the proposed parade of the city militia, and took the opportunity to express their animosity against the government and the throne of England, and to refuse to take part in the contemplated review, but the general welcome to and interest in the Prince was unmistakable.

A grand ball in honour of his royal highness was made the occasion for an assembly, in which the New York "society" of the time appeared superbly apparelled, at least so far as its fairer representatives were concerned. No such brilliant display of dresses and jewels had been seen before, no one could have believed that so many diamonds would be forthcoming—for diamonds were in the ascendant in the newly wealthy, not to say the *parvenu* section of fashion, and that section prevailed. The floor of the gorgeously decorated theatre, adapted to a ball-room, was so full that it soon became evident that dancing would be impossible. The platform reserved for the reception of the Prince and his party was surrounded by a densely packed crowd of elegantly attired women and men, who had obeyed certain sumptuary laws issued by the committee on the subject of the style of dress to be worn on the occasion. The Prince and his suite were conducted to the dais amidst murmured sounds of approbation and welcome, and the strains of the national anthem. An awkward silence ensued, followed by a sudden crashing sound, and before anyone could account for it a considerable square area of the flooring which covered the whole of the pit or parquet gave way, and the exquisitely attired throng standing upon that portion of it suddenly sank about three feet below the rest of the company. Happily nobody showed much alarm.

The company took the occurrence coolly. Workmen were sent for, and in an incredibly short space of time the damage was repaired. The accident seemed to have cleared a space, and dancing commenced. There was a sound of impatient knocking below. So great had been the haste of the carpenters that they had left one of their mates behind and nailed the boards over him. His desire to be let out could only be regarded as an ill-timed impertinence when people were dancing above him; but he was peremptory, and a board was again loosened for his release—hot, dusty, and dirty, a strange figure amidst that brilliant and exquisitely adorned throng. But all went merrily afterwards, the Prince danced with every lady whose name was in his mental programme of partners; the great majority of the company stood in a dense mass to watch him, and scarcely left space for the performance, upon which they gazed with an eager curiosity which, by the by, was not peculiar to themselves after all, for the same scene has often since occurred on the occasions of great receptions, and civic and other balls in this country.

It was on a Saturday night that the most really superb demonstration took place,—the great torchlight procession of the New York volunteer fire-brigades,—each man in full panoply and bearing a torch, the engines shining like goldsmiths' work, hung with lamps and decked with flags and flowers. There were about 6000 men in red tunics and helmets, with engines and hose and ladder wagons, each brigade preceded by a band of music. Around the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where the Prince and his party occupied the balcony, the interest centred. The whole population of New York was in the streets. The crowds were enormous; every window, every house-top was swarming with tiers of faces. As the procession came along it seemed to move in a stream of variegated flame, which lighted up

the buildings far and near with its glare, and showed the sea of faces in a dusky red hue, which had a wonderful and indescribable effect. Most of the engines carried lime-lights in front, with powerful reflectors that concentrated the rays into one penetrating long bright pencil of white fire.

As the head of the column approached the balcony a long deafening cheer rent the air, and the companies simultaneously lit Roman candles which each man carried, and these sent up balls of coloured fire in all directions. The effect was superbly grand, and as each brigade passed cheering, and was saluted by the Prince, the whole scene was one worthy of concluding the splendid welcome that had been offered to the visitors. On the following day (Sunday) his royal highness attended Trinity Church, where the prayers were offered up for the Queen the Prince Consort and Albert Edward Prince of Wales; this was the first time that these petitions for English royalty had been offered since Dr. Inglis was expelled—after the proclamation of independence—for persisting in praying for King George.

On the following morning the Prince and his companions left New York for Albany, where he was received with enthusiasm, and thence for Boston, where there was a review of 20,000 troops and a ball in the evening at which 3000 people were present. His royal highness reached Portland on the 20th of October, and having driven through the city, embarked for England.

The visit of Prince Alfred to the Cape was celebrated by demonstrations as loyal as those which had marked the reception of his brother in Canada. On the 24th of July he arrived at Simon's Bay in the *Euryalus*, and the harbour-master who went on board found him in the usual midshipman's uniform, on duty at the gangway when the port-boat came alongside. When his "watch" was relieved his royal highness landed.



Next day the prince, accompanied by Major Cowell, Captain Tarleton, and two mess-mates, sons of Earl Grey and Viscount Joscelyn, and escorted by volunteer cavalry, proceeded to Cape Town. He was met on the way by the governor Sir George Grey, Lieut.-governor Wynward, and a number of Cape Mounted Rifles and private carriages. The party passed through Claremont, Rondebosh and Mowbray, where triumphal arches had been erected, and many demonstrations of loyalty were exhibited. At Roodebloem a salute was fired, and in Cape Town thousands of people lined the streets from the castle to the entrance of the government gardens. The volunteer artillery were stationed on the Grand Parade, the streets were gaily decorated, flags of all nations and all colours flew from every available point, and from the roof of the masonic hall a number of ladies and gentlemen showered roses as the prince approached. His royal highness was received at Government House by the secretary, the attorney-general, and members of the executive council, the president and members of the legislative council and of the house of assembly, judges, and dignitaries of the church. There were numerous presentations, and an address from the commissioners of the municipality was received and acknowledged. In the evening there were illuminations and transparencies, which were sufficiently attractive to induce the prince and his friends to drive out to look at them. One picture represented the prince and Sir George Grey welcomed by a South African farmer, holding out his hand and saying, "Dag, mynheer; kom't binnen" ("Good-day, sir; come in"). Another had Britannia in the costume of Pharaoh's daughter, giving the prince to Neptune, and saying, "Take this child and nurse it for me."

After a stay of two or three days the prince set out for Algoa Bay, British Kaffraria, Basutoland, and the Orange Free State,

and after a visit to Natal, was to return to the Cape to complete his public engagements by laying the foundation-stone of a new sailors' home. He arrived at Algoa Bay on the 5th of August, and on the following day—his birthday—a carriage drawn by six cream-coloured horses conveyed him to the residence of Mr. Fleming, which had been prepared for him, and where in the evening the inhabitants organized a torch-light procession. On the way thither his royal highness had received a loyal deputation and address from the Malay population. A levée was held at Mr. Fleming's house, and among other visitors who were received were a Malay priest, one Isaak Jukkie. The head-men of a Fingoe village, with a couple of witch-doctors, were introduced to the prince in the afternoon. There was some hunting in the neighbourhood, but it was, so to speak, desert hunting, and with rather a wild field. Five bucks and two hares were shot, however, and it may be taken for granted that the sailor prince and his friends enjoyed the fun.

But it was after leaving Fort Beaufort and King William's-town, and arriving at Queenstown, that the prince's most remarkable experiences were emphasized by a reception from the Kaffirs. The chiefs of the tribes having been informed of his coming prepared to welcome him in their own savage fashion, and the Tambookie chiefs assembled about 1500 of their men at the boundary line some six miles from Queenstown. Unfortunately the arrival of the prince was later than had been expected, and the Tambookies had to remain out for two nights of rain and frost with very little to eat; but not a man deserted his post, and by daybreak on the morning of the 16th of August, they were formed into five divisions, each with its chief, awaiting the arrival of the illustrious visitors. As the prince, attended by English and Dutch burghers, approached opposite to

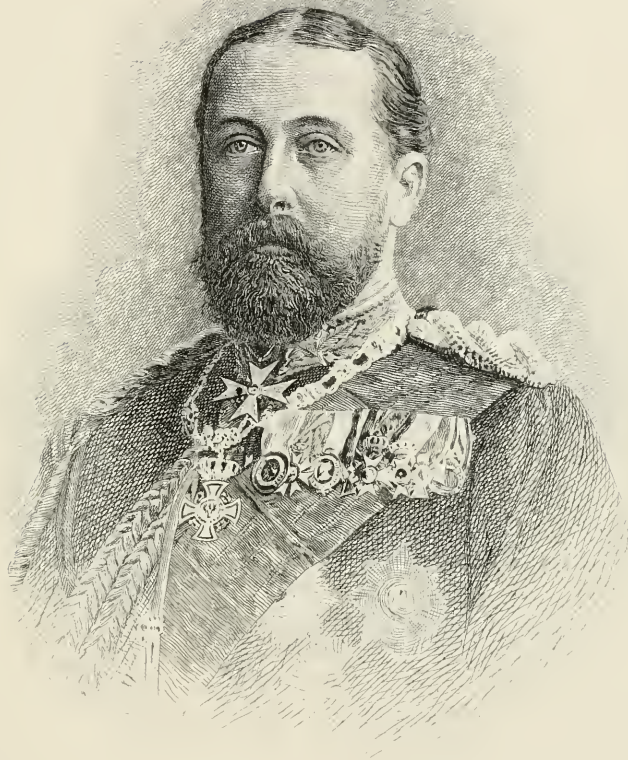
where the tribesmen stood, the divisions charged down upon the party, shouting their battle-cry and shaking their assegais, until within about forty yards of the spot where his royal highness waited to receive them, when they suddenly halted and broke into peals of Kaffir cheering. It was an exciting scene, and the savage warriors having formed into a compact column, the prince and his suite, accompanied by Sir George Grey and Mr. Warner the government resident (who also acted as interpreter), inspected the wild phalanx, and was much interested in their strange dresses, ornaments, and weapons. As he passed down the column a deafening shout arose, and the warriors chanted in a rhythmical cadence two lines improvised by a chief, which being interpreted meant:—

We have seen the child of heaven,  
We have seen the son of our Queen.

The chiefs were then introduced, the prince being particularly interested in the young chief Baroti, a grandson of the loyal Queen-regent Nonesi. This lad, who was about the same age as the prince, presented his royal highness with an assegai in the name of the queen-regent and other chiefs, with a request that he would present it to the Queen as a token of their submission to her rule and authority.

As the royal party entered Lesseyton all the people had assembled, and men, women and children broke into a song, singing their very loudest—

We salute thee, Alfred, Prince of the royal house!  
We salute thee, Alfred, Prince of the English!  
We salute thee, Alfred, Prince of the sea!  
We salute thee, Alfred, son of our Queen!  
We salute thee also, beloved Sir George Grey!  
We salute thee also, who art our governor!



H. I. H.  
ALFRED ERNEST ALBERT  
DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Engraving  
from a photo taken in 1870  
Reinhard & Lindner, Berlin





As the last notes of the song died away, and the prince and his suite came in front of the great crowd, the cheering was tremendous.

At Aliwal North an equally exciting scene took place, for about 4000 horsemen appeared there riding hither and thither, and Moshesh, King of Basutoland, was introduced to his royal highness amidst vehement applause.

From Aliwal the royal party went to Smithfield and to Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange River Free State, and then proceeding northward through Winburg, passed to the east to Harrismouth, on the Natal boundary, and thence through Colenso to Pietermaritzburg. There the party was received with enthusiastic welcome. On a plain, near the town, his royal highness presented the 85th Regiment with new colours, Bishop Colenso offering prayer on the occasion. About 4000 Zulus performed a war-dance in companies, each of which was commanded by its own chief.

On the following morning at daybreak the royal party started for D'Urban, and rode the fifty-six miles at such a rattling pace that they reached their destination at dusk. The prince was again received with warm demonstrations of loyalty, and in the evening, after the usual presentation of addresses, there was a dance by about 300 Kaffirs round an enormous fire.

The return journey was made in time for his royal highness to embark on the *Euryalus* on the 15th of September, to go round from Simon's Bay to Table Bay, where on Sunday the 16th he attended service at St. George's Cathedral. On the following day the ceremony of laying the first stone of the new breakwater was performed amidst much public enthusiasm, after which his royal highness was present at a muster of volunteers, and in the evening a grand ball was given in his honour. On

the 18th he laid the foundation-stone of the new sailors' home, and attended a concert in aid of that institution.

The tour of the prince had been eminently successful, and unflinching demonstrations of loyalty followed him wherever he went, to the latest moment of his stay, when on September the 19th, after a breakfast at Government House, he and his suite entered their carriages for the jetty, preceded by a detachment of Mounted Cape Rifles. Amidst the farewell cheers of a multitude of people the prince alighted, and after shaking hands with several ladies who had assembled at the end of the jetty, descended to the boat of the *Euryalus*, which was quickly followed and accompanied as far as possible by a whole flotilla, amidst the cheering of the crowds upon shore and the salutes fired by the batteries, and by the men-of-war in the bar.

It may be imagined with what anxious interest her Majesty followed the accounts of the journeys of her two sons in such distant parts of the world. At about the time that tidings might be expected of both princes having reached their respective destinations, the Queen was awaiting news from Berlin of her daughter, the Princess Royal. Again her Majesty had to deplore that she could not be with her child except in spirit and in heartfelt prayer, but on the 24th of July a telegram brought the joyful intelligence that a daughter had been born to the Princess that morning, and that both were well.

Only the day before a letter from their daughter had contained some intelligence which needed grave, but not unhappy consideration. The Princess, who had been in correspondence with the Princess Charles of Hesse, had heard from her of the admiration which her son, Prince Louis of Hesse, entertained for the Princess Alice, and of his hopes and misgivings. An extract from a letter from the young prince had been quoted, and this,

along with the other part of the information, was sent to her Majesty and the Prince Consort; who thereupon felt it to be their duty, out of consideration for the lover, to ascertain what were the sentiments of their daughter, the Princess Alice herself. It is not improbable that the young mother at Berlin already knew or guessed her sister's secret. At all events the result of the inquiry was, that the course of true love should be allowed to run smooth, and that though no immediate engagement was to be made, the young prince would be a welcome guest in England a few months later.

When on the 6th of August the royal party left Osborne for Balmoral, arrangements were made to stay at Edinburgh that night, as there was to be a grand review of Scottish volunteers on the following day. The ardour displayed by the people of the north in raising these corps, had been as remarkable as that which had already worked such surprising results in London and the provinces of England.

After a visit to the Duchess of Kent, who had been spending the summer at Cramond, a few miles west of Edinburgh, in a cheerful house surrounded by beeches and sycamores and looking over the Firth of Forth, the Queen and the Prince returned to Holyrood. There was much excitement, and the streets were all astir with people and volunteers passing to the review, which was held in Holyrood Park, a long level space stretching eastward from the palace at the base of the steep ascent that is crowned by Arthur's Seat, and commanded by the broad slope westward which terminates in the picturesque ridge of Salisbury Crags. No finer site for such a display as the Queen was about to witness could be found near any city in Europe, not only because of the historical associations by which it was surrounded, but of the singular facilities it afforded for

the vast number of spectators who assembled to witness the gathering from every part of Scotland and its isles,—a force of above twenty thousand stalwart men, nearly one-third of whom came from Glasgow and the western part of the country.

A little before three o'clock the Duchess of Kent arrived at Holyrood Palace, where the Queen and the royal party sat at a window watching the splendid scene presented by the vast multitude of people assembled on Arthur's Seat, and by the continuous arrival of the various corps with their bands. The weather was perfect, and at about half-past three her Majesty appeared on the review ground in an open carriage with the Duchess of Kent, the Princess Alice, and Prince Arthur; the Princess Helena, Princess Louise, and Prince Leopold (for the first time in Scotland) following in the next. Prince Albert rode on the right side of the Queen's carriage, and the Duke of Buccleuch, as lord-lieutenant of the county and captain of the royal body-guard of Scottish Archers, on the left. As her Majesty passed along the lines of volunteers, who stood at the salute, the whole great assembly of spectators, tier above tier on the slopes of the adjacent hills, which rose in a natural amphitheatre, burst into acclamations that, as the wind swept them in waves of sound, seemed like the thunder of surf upon a shore.

Her Majesty and suite having returned to the position in the centre, the corps marched past in battalions. Lord Breadalbane, riding at the head of his five hundred Highlanders, was loudly cheered and attracted the attention of all beholders. On the last brigade returning to its original ground the line was re-formed, and the whole force advanced, presented arms, and saluted, and this having been graciously acknowledged by the Queen, broke into tremendous and repeated

cheering, and the review being practically over, caps were thrown into the air or waved wildly upon the ends of rifles. It was nearly six o'clock when the royal party re-entered the palace, and the Queen recorded her delight that "dear mama could be present on this memorable and never-to-be-forgotten occasion." Except at the distribution of the Crimean medals and the Victoria Cross she had not driven with the Queen on any similar occasion for above twenty-six years.

On the following day the court reached Balmoral, where, though the Prince Consort had some deer-stalking, he was also much engaged on the subject of the formation of a naval reserve force, and the establishment of training-ships for boys destined for the marine service. Thoughts of the Duchess of Kent dwelt in the minds both of him and the Queen, and on the 17th, the Duchess's birthday, Prince Albert wrote to her an affectionate letter along with the usual birthday gifts, expressing a hope that the presence of three of her grandchildren might console her in the midst of sad thoughts, and asking her to picture to herself the improvements which were being made at her residence at Frogmore. The duchess was in much trouble because of intelligence which had just reached her that her only surviving sister, who had in 1796 married the Grand-duke Constantine of Russia, had been stricken with apoplexy and died a few hours after Prince Albert's letter had been despatched.

At Balmoral the Prince's birthday (the 26th of August) was observed with the usual affectionate greetings and commemorative gifts, and the tenantry and servants held a festival in honour of their landlord and master; but the holidays among the moors and mountains consisted of quiet and restorative excursions; one of them, a "great expedition of two days



to Glen Fishie and Grantown. This journey, with which the Queen was greatly delighted, was made incognito, Lady Churchill and General Grey being in attendance, and several servants following the royal party, which passed as "Lord and Lady Churchill and party," Lady Churchill being "Miss Spencer," and General Grey, "Dr. Grey." It was a pleasant, merry journey, and the Queen in *Leaves from the Journal*, records, with a graphic touch, their experiences at the inn, and her own observations of people and scenery. Other excursions in which the Princesses Alice and Helena accompanied them were enjoyed by the Queen and the Prince; but there was some sense of yearning after the absent ones, and we find in letters addressed to the dear daughter at Berlin how the loved faces were missed, "Bertie, Affie, Baby, and you."

Still there were pleasant thoughts of an approaching meeting with the Princess Royal. The Queen and the Prince Consort were to make another visit to Coburg, and their stay in Scotland was consequently shortened. On the 18th of September the court reached Osborne, and on the 21st was in London, as her Majesty and the Prince were to embark in the royal yacht at Gravesend on the following evening, accompanied by the Princess Alice and their suite, and by Lord John Russell and Dr. Baly, who met them at the railway-station.

The *Victoria and Albert* arrived at Antwerp the next evening. The voyagers did not land that night, but early the following morning King Leopold, his sons, and his daughter-in-law, Marie, Duchess of Brabant, went on board, and accompanied the royal visitors to the station and as far as Verviers. They were grieved to hear that the Dowager-duchess of Coburg, Prince Albert's stepmother, whose serious illness had given them much uneasiness before they left Balmoral, was now so much worse

that a telegram had been sent to the court of Flanders expressing a wish that the royal party could defer their visit for a day or two. This was then impossible, and a message was returned that they hoped to hear better news at Frankfort; but on reaching Verviers, there was another telegram with the distressing news that the dowager-duchess had died at five o'clock that morning.

The journey to Aix-la-Chapelle, and thence to Cologne and Mayence was by the newly-constructed railway. At Frankfort the royal visitors, who were to stay at the Hotel d'Angleterre, whither the Princess of Prussia, Prince Frederick William, and the Princess Louise of Baden had come to meet them, dispensed with the sentries who had been formally stationed on the staircase, and regretted that a guard of honour and a band had given an air of state to the occasion when they were desirous only of a quiet evening in accordance with the sad intelligence which had reached them in the evening.

The journey, resumed next day, lay through the pleasant valley of the Main, and thence through Schweinfurt and Bamberg to Lichtenfels, where the main railway line was left for that of the Thuringian branch, to Coburg. The Prince Consort pointed out each well-remembered locality as the train approached its destination, and the heart of the Queen was agitated with mingled recollections, as at the end of the journey there was a first glimpse of the Festung, and of the quaint town, with cheerful and beautiful country around it lighted by the soft brightness of the evening sky.

At the station the number of people assembled were very quiet and made no demonstration, except by sympathetic looks, as the Duke of Coburg and Prince Frederick William, both in deep mourning, received the royal guests.

At the door of the palace were the Duchess of Coburg and the Princess Royal, attended by the ladies and gentlemen of the court, and both in the deepest German mourning and wearing long black veils with points on the forehead. But in the midst of the signs of sorrow there was the joy of meeting; a tender embrace; and then, after the greetings and the first quiet talk in the rooms devoted to the royal visitors, "Our darling grandchild was brought. Such a little love! He came walking in at Mrs. Hobbs's (his nurse's) hand, in a little white dress with black bows, and was so good. He is a fine fat child, with a beautiful white soft skin, very fine shoulders and limbs, and a very dear face, like Vicky and Fritz, and also Louise of Baden. He has Fritz's eyes and Vicky's mouth, and very fair curly hair. We felt so happy to see him at last."

The visit was indeed marked by a deep sense of peace and happiness, though it was attended with the sadness of mourning for her who had so lately written with lively anticipations of receiving her Majesty and the Prince once more, even though she was suffering much and knew that her span of life here was near the ending. There were walks in the roads, the meadows, and the Swiss Farm, quiet drives in the lovely country; and every morning the darling little grandson was brought to her Majesty, who wrote in her journal brief but interesting notes of the pastoral excursions, the appearance of the peasantry, with some of whom the royal visitors spoke familiarly, and the simple restful associations of the few days that could be devoted to this reunion, which was made happier by the letters from the children at Osborne, and especially from the Princess Helena, who wrote "charmingly."

On the evening of the 26th of September the Duke of Coburg, Prince Albert, and Prince Frederick William left for

Gotha to be present at the funeral of the dowager-duchess, which was to take place at seven the next morning, when at ten o'clock the Queen with her daughters, the Duchess of Coburg, and the large suite went to the Schloss Kirche to a funeral service, the singing at which was very impressive.

In the afternoon the princes returned from Gotha, and a visit was made to the mausoleum, which had been erected by the family after the designs of the Duke Ernest and Prince Albert; a beautiful structure in the Italian style, with marble floor and side galleries for the sarcophagi in which the coffins were to be placed. "It is beautiful, and so cheerful," the Queen wrote in her simple fashion. "We remained some time here . . . then walked through the remainder of the churchyard, where all the little children are buried—the poor little graves covered with flowers."

Before dinner the Queen formally received her cousin, Count Alexander Mensdorff, who had brought a letter from the Emperor of Austria. The successive days of her Majesty's stay were passed in visits to the Rosenau and other scenes of the early days of the Prince Consort, which, delightful in themselves, were full of pleasant associations. The Prince himself had much to engage his attention in letters and despatches from London, and in the accounts received by the Queen of the travels of the two princes in Canada and the Cape. Stockmar was at Coburg, too, and did not fail to visit his dear friends, and was himself visited by the Queen and the Princess Alice at his house in the Weber Strasse. Before this return visit was paid to the faithful old baron, however, he and the Queen and all the guests at the palace had been much alarmed by an accident which had happened to Prince Albert on the 1st of October. The Prince had gone to the Kalenberg for a morning's

shooting, and the Queen, who had remained at Coburg writing letters and reading the accounts of the journeys of the princes, also went later in the day with the two princesses to the Kalenberg, where they remained, intending to follow the Prince, who had been called back to Coburg early in the afternoon. He was alone in an open carriage with four horses driven by the coachman from the box. A great part of the journey had been accomplished when the horses took fright and, becoming uncontrollable, went off at full gallop along the road, which at about a mile from Coburg crossed the railway on a level. A bar to prevent carriages passing without due precautions was across the road, and a wagon stood there waiting to pass. The Prince saw that his horses must inevitably dash into it, and leaped from the carriage into the road, where he fell, but sustained no more serious injuries than a cut across the nose and some grazes and bruises on the face, hands, arms, and knee, which did not prevent him from regaining his feet and hastening to the assistance of the coachman, who had been thrown off and severely hurt, having stuck to the carriage till it crashed into the railway bar and was upset. One of the horses was killed; the others broke loose and galloped onward to Coburg, where Colonel Ponsonby, then equerry to his royal highness, saw them, and, concluding that some accident had happened, immediately procured a carriage and drove down the road with Dr. Baly and Dr. Carl Florschütz, the physician to the Duke of Coburg. When they reached the Prince he at once insisted on their directing all their attention to the injured coachman, and sent Colonel Ponsonby to the Queen to acquaint her with what had happened without alarming her. Her Majesty, with the princesses and the ladies were walking and talking merrily after sketching the distant view of Coburg, and expected the



carriages to overtake them, when they were met by a two-seated carriage bringing Colonel Ponsonby, who said that there had been an accident, but that the Prince was unhurt except for a scratch or two which Dr. Baly, who had met him, said was of no consequence. Her Majesty and the Princess Alice drove back in the carriage and found the Prince lying quietly on his valet's bed with a lint compress on his face and chin, but cheerfully talking to Stockmar, who was at his side with Dr. Baly. The Queen was much overcome by the thought of the terrible danger that he had escaped; and for some time afterwards telegrams and letters were passing hither and thither, to prevent any erroneous account of the accident going abroad or reaching England.

The Prince soon recovered sufficiently to join the family circle and to take his accustomed exercise, and the Queen, devoutly thankful for the merciful providence of God which had directed and protected her husband, desired to establish some benevolent work at Coburg to mark her deep sense of gratitude. This was afterwards accomplished by the organization of a trust called the Victoria Stift, by which about £1000 was invested in the names of the burgomaster and the chief clergyman, who were each year to distribute the interest of the money to a certain number of young men and women of exemplary character and belonging to the humbler class of society.

The remaining hours of the visit to Coburg were spent in those quiet recreations which had seemed best to accord with the associations of the place and the occasion, but the time was fully occupied, and an afternoon was set apart for an expedition to "Mönchröthen," a village with an old monastery, most picturesquely situated, where all the party alighted at the entrance of

the park. Here they were met by two of the duke's Jägers, before going on to the Häslich and along a small path to a lovely valley, where a kind of stage or stand had been prepared to receive the whole party. Her Majesty and the ladies took their places, and Prince Albert, his brother, Prince Frederick William, and Lord John Russell, with their guns and rifles awaited the "drive" of wild boars, of which the Prince Consort killed three, and the others brought down one apiece. Whether Lord John was astonished at his own achievement is not recorded, but it seems to have occasioned some surprise. As Colonel Ponsonby, who took up a station lower down, also succeeded in killing one, there was a total of seven large boars.

Three days afterwards farewells had to be said. The stay at Coburg could not be prolonged, the despatches and correspondence on the state of affairs in Italy required constant attention, and the weather had become wet and cold.

The parting was necessarily sorrowful, for such a reunion had been full of tender sentiments, and the recollection of it would never be effaced. Happily the Princess Royal and her husband and the darling little grandson were to return with her Majesty and the Prince Consort to Cologne; but the fortnight's stay at Coburg, with its mingled emotions of joy and sorrow, had a deep and abiding interest, and as the Queen looked at the dear quaint old town from the window of the railway-carriage, and watched till the last glimpse was gone, she felt sad at heart, and the return journey to Frankfort and Mayence seemed very long. At the former place they were met by the Prince-regent of Prussia, who accompanied them to Mayence, where suites of apartments had been prepared for them at the Rheinischer Hof, a "railway hotel," with no view from her Majesty's window except that of a high wall, and this on a dull, cold, rainy morning was certainly de-

pressing when contrasted with the cheerful aspect of the country from the delightful breakfast room at Coburg, even though the dear little grandson was merrily running about, and some distinguished visitors were coming to make complimentary calls during the morning.

Among these were the Prince and Princess Charles of Hesse-Darmstadt ("she was most friendly and kind; he very civil and amiable, but painfully shy"), whose visit, however, was not merely complimentary, for we are informed that arrangements were made that Prince Louis, their son, should obtain leave of absence from his regiment that he might visit England later in the year, in order that the Princess Alice and himself should have an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with each other.

At one o'clock the royal party left Mayence by the railway, but the cold and pouring rain continued, so that an intended journey by the *Fairy* from Bingen down the Rhine was frustrated, and they went on to Coblenz, where the Princess of Prussia (now Empress of Germany) met them, and accompanied them to the great white handsome palace, with its fine garden and beautiful promenade on the bank of the river. The damp and chill had affected the Queen, who was suffering from a severe cold and sore throat; but she would not allow her indisposition to prevent her joining the dinner party given in her honour.

On the following day her Majesty, who would not give way to her increasing illness, drove and walked out to see various objects of interest, such as the bridge at the confluence of the Rhine and the Moselle, the fine chapel and the English chapel in the Schloss, and the castle at the Stolzenfels, which reminded her of the former visit, when she and the Prince Consort were the guests of the King of Prussia. Again her Majesty would

not disappoint her hosts by remaining in her own room instead of appearing at dinner, and on the following morning, when leaving Coburg for Cologne, she felt that her illness had increased, and she suffered much pain and discomfort. "At Cologne our darling little William was brought into our carriage to bid good-bye, as he was to wait there the return of Vicky and Fritz. I felt the parting deeply." The Prince-regent, who with the Princess of Prussia went on to Aix-la-Chapelle, talked a little of his approaching visit to Warsaw, where he was to meet the Emperors of Russia and Austria, and of his determination not to be bound to any line of policy. The conversation was of serious matters, to which the Queen gave interested attention, though she must have found it difficult to take part in it. At the Prussian frontier came the worst moment of all. "Here we had to part with our dear children. It was a sad moment; and Vicky was so upset, that it upset me, and Alice (of course) much also." At Verviers there were the kindly cousins Leopold, Marie of Brabant, and Philip, to accompany the travellers to Brussels, where at the station "dear uncle received us. I could hardly walk when we got out, and with difficulty got up-stairs. Dr. Baly found my throat very bad, that I had much fever; so I was ordered to remain lying down in my room and to see no one. . . . Not since Ramsgate in 1835 did I feel so ill as I did this day."

To her great regret the Queen was quite unable to be present at the state dinner which the King of the Belgians gave that evening in her honour, but by opening the door she could hear the music of the fine band of the Guides; and a little later, Lady Churchill went and read to her from *The Mill on the Floss*, always a favourite story with her Majesty and Prince Albert.

Next day there was much improvement, and though the Queen

could not accompany the Prince to the exhibition to make purchases, neither of them forgot that it was the anniversary of their betrothal twenty-one years before; and the Prince bought her Majesty a pretty bracelet as a recollection of it, on her return from a pleasant drive, after which there was a quiet family dinner. On the following morning the Queen was sufficiently recovered to make the journey home, and the royal party, accompanied by the king and his sons to Antwerp, there embarked, only to discover that when the yacht had been under way for an hour the inky-black sky and deluge of rain made it prudent to anchor for the night, and resume the voyage next morning. On the evening of that day, the 16th of October, they reached Gravesend, and by a quarter to eight were at Windsor Castle, where, the Queen records, "We found all the dear children well, and delighted to see us, including our precious little Beatrice."

The two sons were soon at home to make the family circle more complete. On the 9th of November Prince Alfred returned from the Cape, and the Prince of Wales arrived on the 15th, after some anxiety had been experienced because of the want of intelligence from him during his tardy homeward voyage. There was much to tell of the respective journeys, many interesting descriptions to be given and talked over. The accounts of enthusiastic and genuine receptions which had greeted the sons of the Queen wherever they had been were most gratifying; and her Majesty, to mark her sense of the valuable services of the Duke of Newcastle, especially during the visit of the Prince of Wales to Canada, invested his grace with the order of the Garter.

The princes had returned in sound health and much improved, and Prince Alfred would have to leave home again soon after Christmas, and after flying visits to his sister at Berlin,



to Gotha, and to Brussels, resume his duties at sea on the 18th of January, when he was to set forth on a voyage to the West India Islands and North America. The Prince of Wales was to complete his university course by remaining for a year at Cambridge. The young Prince Louis of Hesse soon made his expected visit to Windsor, and had already gained the affectionate regard of the Queen and the Prince Consort, so that there was now no obstacle to his betrothal to the Princess Alice, between whom and himself the first timid advances that bespoke mutual liking had become indications of a deep and sincere affection. On the 30th of November the Queen recorded in her diary: "After dinner, while talking to the gentlemen, I perceived Alice and Louis talking before the fireplace more earnestly than usual; and when I passed to go to the other room both came up to me, and Alice, in much agitation, said he had proposed to her, and he begged for my blessing. I could only squeeze his hand and say 'Certainly,' and that we would see him in our room later. Got through the evening, working as well as we could. Alice came to our room . . . agitated but quiet . . . Albert sent for Louis to his room—went first to him, and then called Alice and me in. . . . Louis has a warm noble heart. We embraced our dear Alice and praised her much to him. He pressed and kissed my hand, and I embraced him. After talking a little we parted; a most touching, and, to me, most sacred moment."

Though the attitude of France in relation to Italy and Germany was still such as to cause great uneasiness, and to give the Prince Consort much hard work with continual letters and despatches, friendly personal relations between the emperor and empress and our royal family continued. On the 4th of December the Empress Eugenie, who was travelling incognito in

England for the recovery of her health, paid a private visit to the Queen and the Prince Consort, but did not remain as their guest. The Queen thought that she looked thin and pale, but she was as kind, amiable, and natural as she had always been.

Many were the kindly letters of congratulation which were sent to the Princess Alice, and her Majesty was again looking forward to the season of domestic festivity, but the serious illness of the Prince Consort caused deep anxiety. The winter was unusually wet and bitterly cold, and the Prince, whose general tone had been depressed by long hours of unremitting work, was suffering from a severe attack of what appeared to be a form of that constitutional malady to which he was liable, the symptoms being violent sickness and shivering, succeeded by great weakness. In a day or two he had so far recovered as to resume his usual avocations, and to plunge again into despatches, correspondence, and memoranda, on subjects which appeared to him to demand immediate and earnest attention.

The long-continued illness of Lord Aberdeen, and his death on the 14th of December, was one of the keen sorrows of the later days of the year; but there were many compensations for the troubles that came of the cheerless and unpromising aspect of foreign politics. The allied French and English expedition had at last been successful in obtaining a treaty and convention which put an end to hostilities, provoked by Chinese treachery and duplicity, and established better commercial relations between this country and China. There was no serious political complication in parliament, and though there had been a poor harvest, abundant supplies of foreign grain came into our ports; food was not dear, and the industrial classes were mostly employed at fair wages.

Christmastide was still a joyous season in the royal palace

at Windsor, as it was in thousands of other homes throughout the country. All the usual kindly courtesies and remembrances to dear friends were observed, and the family party would have been complete but for the absence of the young father and mother at Berlin, who were themselves celebrating the great holiday, with their two children to remind them of much of its sacred meaning.

"Again we have missed you greatly at our Christmas table," wrote the Prince Consort to his daughter the next day. "Oh if you and Fritz and the children were only with us! Louis was an accession. He is a very dear good fellow, who pleases us better and better daily. In my abstraction I call him 'Fritz.' Your Fritz must not take it amiss, for it is only the personification of a beloved, newly-bestowed, full-grown son."

It was one of the delightful characteristics of Prince Albert that even after a period when he had been constantly engaged in arduous work—which was usually commenced early in the morning, and in the winter before daylight—he had a reserve of natural cheerfulness which enabled him to recover his accustomed bright engaging manner in the family circle and among well-known friends. Even after the repeated attacks of illness to which he was liable, and the effects of which were to be seen in apparently diminishing strength, he preserved that calm, sustained and sustaining temper which enabled him to encourage others. He was a man with a rare combination of temperament, with no tenacious hold on life as he himself said, and with that kind of half sadness which belongs to a contemplative and metaphysical intellectual tendency, but he possessed a remarkable practical faculty for estimating motives and consequences; a keen and sometimes almost exaggerated sense of the quaint and ludicrous, and a certain kindly gaiety, which, as was the case

with every characteristic that belonged to him, was never separated from a deep and abiding conviction that every action and the whole daily life should be directed by practical religious belief. The social position to which he attained is well summarized in the authentic record compiled by Sir Theodore Martin:—

“In the royal household, in his family circle, among his numerous kinsfolk at home and abroad, his judgment and guidance were being constantly appealed to. Every enterprise of national importance claimed his attention; and in all things that concerned the welfare of the state, at home or abroad, his accurate and varied knowledge, and great political sagacity, made him looked to as an authority by all our leading statesmen. Let those who worked with and for him do their best—and he could not have been served more ably or more devotedly—they could not prevent a pressure which constantly compelled him to do in one day what would have been more than ample work for two. But all this fatigue of body and brain did not deprive him of his natural cheerfulness.” “At breakfast and luncheon,” says a memorandum by the Queen, “and also at our family dinners, he sat at the top of the table, and kept us all enlivened by his interesting conversation, by his charming anecdotes, and droll stories without end, of his childhood, of people at Coburg, of our good people in Scotland, which he would repeat with a wonderful power of mimicry, and at which he would himself laugh most heartily. Then he would at other times entertain us with his talk about the most interesting and important topics of the present and of former days, on which it was ever a pleasure to hear him speak.”

The occurrences of the opening year (1861) appeared little likely to dissipate the lowering cloud which had dimmed the brightness of the previous season with a sense of mourning for

old departed friends. Alas! it was to be a fateful year indeed, a year which carried grief in its course, and closed in sorrow and desolation for the Sovereign Lady, who in its latest days became a widow, and for the royal family whom it left fatherless.

Friendly imperial greetings from Paris had reached her Majesty, and were duly acknowledged from Osborne on the 3d of January; but before leaving Windsor on the previous day the Queen had received intelligence of the death of the King of Prussia. The long illness which had caused him much suffering, and during which his fine and cultivated intellect had been impaired, had left no hope of his recovery, and his friends could not desire that his life should be prolonged; but they remembered with sincere regard his kindly nature, his rare accomplishments, and how he had possessed all the attainments which made him socially attractive, and gave him something of authority in the world of philosophy, art, and of letters, though he lacked those qualities which were necessary for a successful politician or a trustworthy king. By his death the Prince-regent (the present Emperor of Germany) succeeded to the throne (he was then sixty-three years old) and the husband of our Princess Royal became Crown-prince of Prussia. The Princess had been summoned to Sans Souci, and had been present when he breathed his last. She had never before looked upon the dying or the dead, and this experience made a deep impression upon her mind, and was the subject of a serious and interesting, but not a gloomy, correspondence between her and her father.

The funeral of the king, which took place in the Friedenskirche at Potsdam on the 7th of January, was attended by a numerous assembly of kings, and princes, and distinguished personages; and Lord de Tabley, Colonel Ponsonby, and Colonel Teesdale represented her Majesty on the occasion. The cere-



mony was exceedingly imposing, but the weather there, as in England, was intensely cold.

During the stay of the royal family at Osborne Prince Albert, in spite of the bitter weather, made visits of inspection to the coast fortifications which were in progress at Portsmouth, Gosport, and the neighbourhood; and then there was a return to Windsor, where several visitors were entertained at the castle, and the usual festivities, including some dramatic performances, took place. By the middle of the month the Prince of Wales had left for Maddingley Hall, near Cambridge, where he took up his residence during his university studies; and Prince Alfred had joined his ship at Plymouth.

Among the principal visitors to the castle were Lord Palmerston, and, on his return, Mr. Disraeli, who reported to the Prince Consort that the Conservative party was ready to support the government in what they termed a steady and patriotic policy—a declaration which was afterwards verified when it was attempted to defeat the ministry by a proposal to reduce the expenses of the armaments.

The month had not closed when, to the horror and distress of the Queen, Dr. Baly, who had become her confidential physician, was killed by an accident on the South-Western Railway, in a journey between Wimbledon and Malden. It was an incalculable loss, for Sir James Clark had retired, and Dr. Baly had become acquainted with the constitution and requirements of the Prince Consort. He was succeeded by his near friend Dr. Jenner, who was recommended by Sir James Clark.

A very considerable addition to the work of the Prince was caused by the necessity for presiding at the meetings and directing the arrangements for promoting the proposed international exhibition for the following year. On the anni-

versary of his wedding with the Queen, he was able to look back on twenty-one years of happy and beneficent experience, and in writing to his friend Stockmar could with gratitude to God acknowledge that much good to the world would yet be the result of it. The next day, Sunday the 10th of February, was observed with quiet happiness, only some sacred music being performed by the Queen's band in the evening; when the Prince wrote to the Duchess of Kent: "Twenty-one years make a good long while, and to-day our marriage 'comes of age according to law.' We have faithfully kept our pledge for better and for worse, and have only to thank God that He has vouchsafed so much happiness to us. May He have us in his keeping for the days to come! You have, I trust, found good and loving children in us, and we have experienced nothing but love and kindness from you."

The Queen, writing to King Leopold, said: "Very few can say with me, that their husband, at the end of twenty-one years, is not only full of the friendship, kindness, and affection which a truly happy marriage brings with it, but of the same tender love as in the very first days of our marriage. We missed dear mama and three of our children, but had six dear ones round us, and assembled in the evening those of our household still remaining, who were with us then."

The letter of the Prince to the Duchess of Kent may have taken a tenderer tone because of some anxiety which was felt on account of her being in a feeble condition; and when the court returned to London she also went to Buckingham Palace, where she stayed for a few days till the end of February, when she returned to Frogmore, the Queen and Prince Albert going to Osborne for a short stay in the warmer and purer air.

They had scarcely arrived before intelligence reached them

of the death of Sir George Couper, secretary and comptroller of the household to her royal highness. It was to be feared that the death of this old and confidential officer and friend would greatly affect the duchess, and Prince Albert at once wrote to her a sympathetic letter, at the same time expressing condolence with the widow and children of Sir George, who at his death had reached the age of seventy-two years.

Though there was no immediate appearance of the Duchess of Kent having seriously suffered from the shock, she felt the loss very deeply, and her condition of health was such as to cause much uneasiness. An abscess had formed in her arm, which was extremely swollen and painful, so that she could neither write nor play on the piano, and could only read or listen to reading occasionally for a short time. On their return from Osborne the Queen and the Prince Consort went to visit her royal highness at Frogmore, as her state of health prevented her journeying to London. She had undergone a surgical operation to relieve the abscess in her arm, and was suffering much pain; but there appeared to be no alarming symptoms, and the medical opinions were so favourable that her Majesty and the Prince returned to Buckingham Palace, where the frequent reports received for the next three days gave no cause for apprehension. On the 15th of March the report was still favourable, and the Queen accompanied the Prince Consort to see the new gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at Kensington, and returned alone, leaving the Prince to transact some business with the society. While there, he was suddenly summoned to Buckingham Palace by Sir James Clark, who had just come from Frogmore with the intelligence that the duchess had been seized with a shivering fit, which he regarded as a very serious symptom.

Without loss of time the Queen with the Prince Consort and the Princess Alice went by train to Windsor. "The way seemed so long," records her Majesty's diary, "but by eight we were at Frogmore. Here Lord James Murray and the ladies received us, and, alas! said it was just the same; but still I did not then realize what it really was. Albert went up; and when he returned with tears in his eyes I saw what awaited me. . . . With a trembling heart I went up the staircase and entered the bed-room, and here, on a sofa, supported by cushions, the room much darkened, sat, leaning back, my beloved mama, breathing rather heavily, in her silk dressing-gown and with her cap on, looking quite herself."

The anguish of the Queen and the sad particulars of that sorrowful scene could not bear description in any other words than those of the Queen herself: "Seeing that our presence did not disturb her, I knelt before her, kissed her dear hand, and placed it next my cheek; but, though she opened her eyes, she did not, I think, know me. She brushed my hand off; and the dreadful reality was before me, that for the first time she did not know the child she had ever received with such tender smiles! I went out to sob. . . . I asked the doctors if there was no hope. They said, they feared, none whatever, for consciousness had left her. . . . It was suffusion of water on the chest which had come on.

"As the night wore on into the morning, I lay down on the sofa, at the foot of my bed, where at least I could lie still. I heard each hour strike, the cock crow, the dogs barking at a distance. Every sound seemed to strike into one's inmost soul. What would dearest mama have thought of our passing a night under her roof, and she not to know it! At four I went down again. All still—nothing to be heard but the heavy breathing,

and the striking at every quarter of the old repeater, a large watch in a tortoise-shell case, which had belonged to my poor father, the sound of which brought back all the recollections of my childhood, for I always used to hear it at night, but had not heard it for now twenty-three years! I remained kneeling and standing by that beloved parent, whom it seemed too awful to see hopelessly leaving me, till half past-four, when, feeling faint and exhausted, I went up-stairs again and lay down in silent misery, during which I went through in thought past times and the fearful coming ones, with the awful blank which would make such an inroad into our happy family life."

About half-past seven the Queen returned to the duchess's room, where the end was now visibly approaching. "About eight o'clock Albert took me out of the room for a short while, but I could not remain. When I returned the window was wide open and both doors. I sat on a footstool, holding her dear hand. . . . Meantime the dear face grew paler (though, in truth, her cheeks had that pretty fresh colour they always had, up to within half an hour of the last), the features longer, sharper. The breathing became easier. I fell on my knees, holding the beloved hand, which was still warm and soft, though heavier, in both of mine. I felt the end was fast approaching, as Clark went out to call Albert and Alice, I only left gazing on that beloved face, and feeling as if my heart would break. . . .

"Fainter and fainter grew the breathing. At last it ceased; but there was no change of countenance, nothing; the eyes closed, as they had been for the last half-hour. . . . The clock struck half-past nine at the very moment. Convulsed with sobs I fell upon the hand and covered it with kisses. Albert lifted me up and took me into the next room, himself



entirely melted into tears, which is unusual for him, deep as his feelings are, and clasped me in his arms. . . .

"I went into the room again after a few minutes, and gave one look. . . . My childhood—everything seemed to crowd upon me at once. I seemed to have lived through a life, to have become old! What I had dreaded, and fought off the idea of for years, had come, and must be borne. The blessed future meeting, and *her* peace and rest, must henceforward be my comfort. . . .

"Albert said it was better to go at once into her dear sitting-room, where we so constantly saw her. We did so, but oh the agony of it! All, all unchanged—chairs, cushions, everything—all on the tables, her very work-basket with her work, the little canary bird, which she was so fond of—singing! In these two dear rooms, where we had so constantly seen her, where everything spoke of life, we remained a little while, to weep and pray, I kneeling down at her chair. Often and often did she receive me there this winter, leaning back and complaining much of pain, and my visits cheered her."

The grief of her Majesty was at first overwhelming, and was renewed when, on the arrival of the Prince of Wales and the Princess Helena from London, she took them into the room where lay, statue-like and beautiful, all that was mortal of the grandmother whom they had dearly loved.

But the Queen found no little consolation from the expressions of love and unaffected mourning by the members of the duchess's household, the higher officers, and the old servants who had been near their dear mistress for many years. There was true sympathy in it, and that sympathy was repeated throughout the country, where recollections of the maternal devotion, the fortitude, and the consistent courage of the Duchess of Kent

were revived by the leading speakers in parliament on the proposal to present an address of condolence to her Majesty.

There was much to be done amidst this grief and associated with it; many letters to be written, especially to those whose sorrow the Queen knew would be as poignant as her own—to her sister, the Princess Hohenlohe, who could not come to her; to her uncle, the devoted brother, who was now the last of his generation; and to others on whom the first swift message of her loss would have given the shock of sudden bereavement.

Her Majesty had at once invited Lady Augusta Bruce, who had been the loved lady-in-waiting to the duchess, to become her principal bed-chamber woman and companion, and this brought her much comfort. The dear daughter, now Crown-princess of Prussia, was on her way from Berlin, and arrived at Windsor Castle on the 18th of March, to the joy of her parents and the great relief of the Prince Consort, who had now, in addition to his usual duties, that of fulfilling the provisions of the will of the duchess, who had left him sole executor—bequeathing all her property to the Queen, but leaving legacies and directions which required the careful examination of papers and correspondence, with the matters included in which he was but little acquainted. But he had loved the deceased duchess deeply, and his practical, quiet tribute of that regard was to take up without a murmur or a sign of weariness the responsibility laid upon him, and by his assiduity and gentle sympathy to alleviate the Queen's distress.

The funeral of the duchess took place in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, where the body remained until the completion of the beautiful mausoleum at Frogmore. The Prince Consort was chief mourner, supported by the Prince of Wales and Prince Leiningen, the pall being borne by ladies who had at some

time been ladies-in-waiting to the duchess. The scene was deeply affecting, because of the genuine manifestations of sorrow by every one present.

The Princess Royal remained at Windsor till the 2d of April, when she returned to Berlin, carrying with her a letter to the King of Prussia from Prince Albert, saying how great had been the comfort and delight of her presence, and containing some words of wise and friendly counsel to the newly invested sovereign not to let himself be separated from his people. On the 5th the royal family had left Windsor for Osborne, where the Queen was able to remain in retirement and to find rest. Writing to the old friend and counsellor, Stockmar—himself bowed down with sorrow, and full of recollections of that sad time when the sister of his dear master was left desolate—the Prince said of the Queen: “ Her grief is extreme, and she feels acutely the loss of one whom she cherished and tended with affectionate and dutiful devotion. For the last two years her constant care and occupation have been to keep watch over her mother’s comfort, and the influence of this upon her own character has been most salutary. . . . She remains almost entirely alone. . . . You may conceive it was and is no easy task for me to comfort and support her, and to keep others at a distance; and yet, at the same time, not to throw away the opportunity, which a time like the present affords, of binding the family together in a closer bond of unity.”

After the duties of administering the estate of the Duchess of Kent, and providing for the pensioning of servants and continuing annuities, the royal family went into retirement at Osborne; the Prince of Wales returning to Cambridge, where he was to read constitutional law till the summer months, before taking military duty at the camp of the Curragh of Kildare in Ireland.

A period of repose and seclusion was necessary and salutary to her Majesty, who only slowly recovered from the prostration which followed her grief. Even for a few days the complete quiet of the royal home at the Isle of Wight was restorative; and though the birthday of the little Princess Beatrice was celebrated in the favourite retreat of the Swiss cottage, there were of course neither company nor festivities.

It was scarcely possible to remain for a day apart from the anxieties and demands of duties of state; for though there was nothing in home politics or in parliament to cause excitement, the correspondence and memoranda in relation to foreign affairs were constant and exacting. The affairs of Italy were still unsettled, and the sympathies of the government and the people of England were strongly on the side of the achievement of Italian independence. Hungary and Poland were also claiming a large share of similar attention, and remonstrances were being prepared for presentation to the Emperor of Russia with regard to his treatment of his Polish subjects.

While this was the attitude towards Austria and Russia, the ministry and the people were alike manifesting a strong feeling of indignation against Prussia in consequence of the arrogant and tyrannical conduct displayed by Prussian officials at Bonn against an English traveller, Captain Macdonald, who, in consequence of some demands which he made in a dispute about a seat in a railway-carriage, was ejected from the station, dragged to prison, where he was kept and shamefully treated for a week before being brought to trial, and sentenced to a fine of twenty thalers and costs.

To the indignities of the violent arrest and the harsh sentence the public prosecutor added insulting and offensive words against English residents and travellers in Germany, much to

the indignation of the British community in Bonn; and as the action and language of the Prussian authorities was such as to support the unwarrantable conduct and language of their officials, resentment in England reached such a pitch that Lord Palmerston only moderately represented the public feeling when he sent a despatch to the Prussian government asking for reparation and apology, and hinting at the withdrawal of diplomatic relations if this request should be disregarded.

The Queen, when the affair was brought under her notice, was much concerned; but until the particulars were known made the common-sense remark, that "these foreign governments are very arbitrary and violent, and our people are apt to give offence, and to pay no regard to the laws of the country." The accuracy of this opinion and its applicability to the case were afterwards manifested; but the conduct and language of the Prussian officials, offensive as they had been, were so arrogantly defended in the Prussian chambers and so denounced in the British parliament, and the newspapers on both sides published such violent articles, that the relations of the two countries were greatly strained. As the law-officers of the crown were unable to deny that the conduct of the officials at Bonn were within the extreme limits of the Prussian law, Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell could not make any further demands for the apology or reparation which were denied; but Palmerston delivered a Parthian shot by saying, that as Prussia refused even the expressions of regret usual after such uncalled-for outrage, and as the harsh, unjust, arbitrary, and violent proceedings of the Prussian authorities had been within the limits of the Prussian law, the British government could make no demand from that of Prussia; but we might regret, for the sake of the Prussians themselves, that they should have such a law.



The views of Prince Albert during this disagreement were governed by the knowledge and experience which he possessed of the complete difference between the German and the English ideas of "the state." He had more than once declared that the Prussian government had not adopted the constitutional principles and the true relation to the people which could give her the leading place in Germany; and now, in a letter to a friend in Berlin, he pointed out that "while in Germany people theorize and make combinations, based upon the interests of nations and states and upon their history, here no one looks so deeply into things, and people only occupy themselves with the facts of each case as it arises. In Germany the idea of the state in the abstract is a thing divine, here it means the freedom of the individual citizen. The worth of a state is appraised here according to the measure of individual freedom which it secures to its subjects, and in that men find its highest object."

The letters of the Prince at this time were full of evidences of his clear insight and true appreciation of the power and advantage of a broadly liberal political constitution, and he did not conceal his dissatisfaction at the overbearing and utterly inconsistent assumptions of Prussia in the dispute of the popular diet of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein against the demands of the King of Denmark. That Prussia, the upper and governing classes of which were known to be opposed to popular rights, should be prepared to go to war (and afterwards did go to war) with Denmark avowedly in support of the demands for such rights, had an appearance of hypocrisy which could not be tolerated by a prince who held strongly to the meaning of constitutional government as it was interpreted in England, and abhorred a policy which regarded "a foreign war as the means of getting rid of internal differences and inconveniences."

By the end of April the court was once more in London, and at a meeting of the privy-council the Queen announced the proposed marriage of the Princess Alice with Prince Louis of Hesse. The same intelligence was communicated to parliament on the 4th of May, and was received with general satisfaction; and two days afterwards a dowry of £30,000 and an annuity of £6000 was agreed to without dissension. The engagements of the Prince Consort during the Queen's retirement were almost overwhelming, and nothing but a determined application of almost every hour to their fulfilment could have enabled him to go through with them, especially as he was at that time particularly anxious to give his personal attention to the arrangement of the Prince of Wales's studies. The continuous work, scarcely interrupted by some hours of occasional suffering, had begun to tell on him, and it was noticed that he looked worn and pale when he appeared at the opening of the Royal Horticultural Gardens at Brompton on the 5th of June. He had been in the morning with the Queen and King Leopold to the private view of the flower-show, which was to form a principal attraction; and the formal opening took place in the afternoon, when the Prince was accompanied by the Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur, the Princesses Alice, Helena, and Louise, and the Princess Mary of Cambridge. The Prince, in answer to an address, said, "That which last year was still a vague conception is to-day a reality, and, I trust, will be accepted as a valuable attempt at least to reunite the science and art of gardening to the sister arts of architecture, sculpture, and painting." The ceremonial was successfully carried out, the show was very beautiful and interesting, but the day was dull and wet, the aspect without somewhat dreary, and that within seemed to lack the presence of the Queen, while the mourning worn by the royal family gave a

touch of sadness to the scene. Alas! who could then have foretold that this would be the last public occasion on which the well-known and welcome face and figure of the Prince Consort would be seen in London.

Though her Majesty remained in partial retirement the usual drawing-rooms were held on the return to Buckingham Palace, and there and at Osborne many visitors had to be received during the few weeks before the autumn vacation.

King Leopold and his son left London on the 25th, the day before the arrival of the Crown-prince and Princess of Prussia with their children, a reunion which must have cheered the heart of the Queen, who was still much depressed. Prince Louis of Hesse was already one of the family circle, which was soon joined by his mother the Princess Charles, while Augustus and Clementine, the Montpensiers, Max and Charlotte of Austria, Fritz of Baden, and the King of Sweden, are included in the list mentioned by the Prince in a letter to Stockmar. The little Prince Leopold was in such ill health that it was proposed to send him for the winter to Nice or Cannes under competent care. Prince Alfred was expected home from America on four weeks' leave, and was to accompany the Queen and Prince Albert with the elder children on a visit to Ireland, where the Prince of Wales was at the Curragh Camp, which he was soon to quit for Germany, where he was to witness the autumn reviews and manœuvres on the Rhine.

On the 17th of August the Queen, the Prince Consort, and Princess Alice went to Frogmore, and on the following day, the anniversary of the birthday of the late Duchess of Kent, visited the mausoleum. The Queen wrote to King Leopold:—"We placed the wreaths upon the splendid granite sarcophagus, and at its foot, and felt that it was only the earthly robe of her we

loved so much that was there—the pure, tender, loving spirit is above, and free from all suffering and woe . . . that first birthday in another world must have been a far brighter one than any birthday in this poor world below.”

The return to Osborne was followed by immediate preparations for the journey to Ireland, and on the morning of the 21st the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by Prince Alfred and the Princesses Alice and Helena, with some of the royal suite, travelled to Holyhead, having taken up Lord Granville and Lord Sydney at Oxford. The same evening the royal yacht conveyed the travellers to Kingstown, where they remained on board, landing next morning. The royal carriages were waiting, when the party reached Dublin, to drive to Phoenix Park, which was reached amidst loyal and friendly demonstrations by crowds of persons in the streets, though the weather was exceedingly variable, and the rain at last fell almost incessantly.

In the afternoon Prince Albert made visits to the exhibition, the new club, and the new museum, accompanied by Lord Carlisle; and the Queen with her children drove out notwithstanding the pouring rain. There was a great dinner in the evening; and the next day was chiefly devoted by the Queen, Prince Alfred, and the princesses to little excursions, while Prince Albert went to see the Prince of Wales at work at the camp, whither the whole party went on the following day, when there was a march past during a violent downpour of rain. The Queen and the princesses, with Lady Churchill, were in a carriage, while the Prince Consort and Prince Alfred rode. As her Majesty's carriage was driven down the line the cavalry played one of the Duchess of Kent's marches, which so affected the Queen that she had difficulty in restraining her tears. Her

Majesty still felt very sad, but there was comfort in the pleasure which came to her motherly heart at the sight of her eldest son, who looked very well, and occupied a very comfortable four-roomed hut belonging to Sir George Brown, where the whole party partook of lunch, including the general and three colonels, one of them Colonel Percy of the Guards, under whose instruction the Prince of Wales had been placed, and who received the thanks of the Queen for keeping the Prince up to his work and treating him as he would have treated any other officer. It was a field-day, and the manœuvres were witnessed by her Majesty and the princesses at a distance. The weather cleared up towards the close of the proceedings, but the rain had not deterred great crowds of people of all classes from assembling on foot, on horseback, in jaunting-cars, or in carriages, which came in from every direction.

On the following day (Sunday), after the celebration of divine service in a room in the Viceregal Lodge, the Prince Consort with his sons went to visit the prisons, and the Queen with her two daughters, the Kilmainham hospital. The Monday was Prince Albert's birthday, and was observed by presenting the usual tokens of affection from all the children, even from the younger ones who were at home. But the Queen, though she records with gratitude, "The two eldest boys have not for a long time been with us on this dear day," and notes that the four children received her and the Prince, to whom they presented bouquets, still felt sad and depressed—"I missed the little ones, above all baby, and sadly I thought of poor dear Vicky." Alas! was there some subtle undefined foreboding of impending loss when the Queen wrote in her diary on that birthday morning a fervent prayer for the husband of her love?



In the afternoon an expedition was made to the Lakes of Killarney, where for two days the royal party, including the Prince of Wales, were to be guests of Lord and Lady Castlerosse at Killarney House and of Mr. Herbert of Muckcross. The Queen was, as usual, greatly interested in the aspect of the country as seen on the journey. At Thurles there was a tremendous crowd—"very noisy, the people very wild and dark-looking, all giving that peculiar shriek which is general here instead of cheers,—the girls were handsome, with long dishevelled hair." At Killarney station, where the visitors were received by Lord Castlerosse and Mr. Herbert, there was another great crowd; the mayor, who presented an address, and the general commanding the troops in the district, were present with a detachment and an escort. The stay at the house, where, from the window of the Queen's room there was an exquisite view across a beautiful garden and lawn to the lake and its islands, was very pleasant. At dinner the Bishop of Limerick, Dr. Moriarty the Roman Catholic bishop, and Mr. O'Connell, "brother to the O'Connell, the last of that generation, a very good man, with quite different views from his brother, and the Knight of Kerry," were among the company.

The next two days were mostly spent on the lakes, where a fine barge had been provided for the royal party. The weather was extremely warm, and the moist, warm, close atmosphere, which the Queen said, "reminds one of the tepid-water feel of Devonshire," was somewhat exhausting; but the scenery of the hills, the lake of Muckcross, where "the people live on the water," the numerous boats, and the charming wooded islands—could not fail to interest the visitors, who, on the 29th, bade farewell to their hosts and returned to Kingstown, where they at once went on board the royal yacht.

By nine o'clock next morning they reached Holyhead, and remained while the Prince Consort and Prince Alfred made a delightful excursion to Carnarvon and through the Valley of Llanberis. By making the night journey by railway the royal party reached Balmoral on the afternoon of the following day, and found Lord John Russell (or rather Earl Russell, for he had just been elevated to the peerage) already awaiting them, as he intended again to occupy Abergeldie for the season. In two or three days the arrival of Prince Louis of Hesse, and of her Majesty's well-loved sister, accompanied by Lady Augusta Bruce, gave promise of a very happy if still saddened reunion in the Highland home.

In Scotland the health of the Prince Consort quickly improved, and he was able to enjoy some good sport in stalking the deer, the active exercise and fine mild but bracing air acting as tonics to restore his strength. In the healing influences of external nature, the grandeur and beauty of mountains, woods, and lakes, amidst which long and delightful excursions were made, the Queen found some solace for her grief. The departure of her sister and of Prince Alfred, who would not be home again from his voyage until the following summer, must have appeared like added sorrows; but change of scene and change of thought were afforded by interesting expeditions not previously attempted. These delightful journeys, in which the royal party travelled without their rank being made known, included the Princesses Alice and Helena and Prince Louis of Hesse, with the suite as in the former year, and the Queen's account of them in the "Leaves" from her journal shows that her Majesty, though suffering from depression of spirits, keenly observed and enjoyed the charming scenery and the series of small adventures, which included both humorous and pathetic incidents.

The "great expedition" to Invermark and Fettercairn, —where the royal excursionists found quite tidy quarters at the little inn called the Ramsay Arms, and returned next day by Glen Tanar and the Bridge of Muich,—was followed by a journey to Glen Fishie and Blair Athole. Here the Queen and Prince Albert visited their former hosts the Duke and Duchess of Athole, and saw the rooms that they had occupied on their visit so long before, including the apartment where the Princess Royal, then not four years old, had slept in a bed made for her on two chairs.

The next long excursion was to Cairn Glaishie and Ca-Ness, and it has a sad significance. The Queen's journal, recording the events of the delightful expedition, concludes by saying, "Alas! I fear our last great one."

When the "Leaves" from that journal were afterwards published, in 1868, the foot of the page was found to be inscribed by her Majesty's hand: ["It was our last one! 1867"], words so full of otherwise inexpressible sorrow that they need no comment.

The serious misunderstanding between the English and Prussian governments, and the public excitement that attended it, had no effect upon the friendly relation between the two royal families, and Prince Albert continued a frank and cordial correspondence with the King of Prussia, whose attention he was earnestly directing towards the growth of the desire for a union of the various states in a German empire, and the necessity for a free constitution on the part of the power which should lead the movement.

On his visit to Germany and the Rhine the Prince of Wales was received with affectionate kindness by the king and the royal family, who did not stint their praises of his demeanour

and accomplishments; and when, on the 18th of October, the grand and impressive ceremony of the coronation of the King of Prussia took place in the church of the Castle of Königsberg, the charming grace and genuine emotion with which the Crown-princess (our Princess Royal) did homage to the new sovereign, her father-in-law, caused general admiration. At one time it was feared that the bitterness of feeling against England because of the Macdonald controversy would injure the prestige and popularity of the Princess; but though this seemed probable for a time, her royal highness had already won for herself a place in the public regard in Germany which could not be easily diminished.

An anxiety, which for the time was greater than fears of this kind, was caused by the illness of the Princess through a cold caught at the coronation. Assurances of her rapid recovery had scarcely arrived before sad intelligence came from Lisbon that Don Ferdinand, the brother of Don Pedro King of Portugal, the much-loved friend of the Queen and the Prince Consort, was suffering from typhoid fever. His brothers, Don John and Don Louis, were at the coronation at Königsberg, whence they came to England, and before they set out for Portugal they learned that their brother the king had been attacked with fever. On the 9th of November, the twentieth birthday of the Prince of Wales, there was a large company at Windsor Castle to celebrate the event, and amidst the rejoicings there were notes of sadness, not only because of sorrowful memories and recent losses, but in consequence of the tidings from Lisbon. On the evening of the 11th came the news that the young king of twenty-five years old was dead; and in the words of her Majesty, "united to his darling angel Stephanie," and "spared the pang and the sacrifice of having to marry again."

Amidst pressing family cares and public duties these successive bereavements lay heavily on the Queen and her consort, who, though he bore himself bravely and preserved his habitual calm and genial courage, was evidently suffering from illness and from overwork. Her Majesty was deeply concerned to observe that he seemed to have lost his usual power of recuperation, and that he continued to look haggard and exhausted, and to be much affected by the inclemency of the weather during his journeys to and from London and to Cambridge. He complained of rheumatic pains, of weariness, and depression, and his condition was at once indicated and aggravated by sleeplessness. For a fortnight he had scarcely been able to close his eyes at night.

Another subject of great national moment demanded close and careful attention. A conflict was at hand, intimately associated with the history, the personal sympathies, and the national and commercial relations of the British people. Public interest was beginning to be absorbed by the disunion of the States of America, and the preparations for a tremendous civil war, the immediate effects of which would be to deprive a great section of our population of the cotton which was the staple of their manufacturing industry, while the final result would be either the retention or the abolition of slavery in those States, the independence or compulsory reunion of which was at first the avowed objects of the struggle.

During the time that England as well as other nations was hesitating whether she should acknowledge belligerent rights, and concede to the Southern Confederate States the separate nationality which they demanded, the Northern government, which claimed national authority by the constitution of the Union, blockaded the Southern ports, and hostilities commenced.



The Confederates, however, desired to send representative envoys to France and England, and two gentlemen, Mr. Mason and Mr. Slidell, with their secretaries, were so accredited, and contrived to reach Cardenas in Cuba by a Confederate steamer, which ran the blockade from Charlestown in spite of the Federal vessels that were on the look-out for them. They then took passage on board the *Trent*, a British steamer carrying mails and passengers from the Havana for England; but this vessel was brought to by shots fired from the *San Jacinto*, an American ship of war, the commander of which, Captain Wilkes, boarded the *Trent* with a guard of marines and demanded a list of the passengers. This being refused, he declared he had orders to arrest Mr. Mason, Mr. Slidell, and two other gentlemen who were on board. Those gentlemen, having stepped forward and acknowledged their identity, Captain Wilkes, in spite of the remonstrances of the captain of the *Trent* and Commander Williams, the government mail agent, forcibly removed them—thus committing a breach of international law by arresting passengers on a British vessel on the voyage from one neutral port to another.

This arbitrary act aroused a storm of excitement throughout the country, and expressions of resentment or of actual hostility were not wanting. Reparation by the immediate release of the persons arrested and their conveyance to this country and to France was to be demanded, together with expressions of regret at the breach of international law, either because of instructions wrongly given to Captain Wilkes, or by his irresponsible action, for which he should be punished. Public feeling on both sides was so heated, especially as there had been an obvious leaning of English sympathies towards the cause of the Southern States, that the wording of the despatch making

these representations to the American government, was of the utmost importance. Notwithstanding his weak and suffering condition, the Prince Consort wrote a memorandum, which he submitted to the Queen, containing suggestions so excellent and judicious that the prepared despatch was remodelled upon them, and, as events proved, was so effectual in stating the case firmly and temperately, without unnecessarily exciting the inflamed susceptibilities of the American government, that the concession was ultimately made and the prisoners released and returned; though the aggression of Captain Wilkes, who it was understood had acted without instructions, was applauded by some officials of the United States and a vote of thanks was awarded to him by Congress.

This memorandum was the last document written by the Prince, who was then seriously ill. The marked increase of his malady appears to have been observed immediately after his visit to Sandhurst, on the 22d of November, to inspect the progress of the buildings for the Staff College and Royal Military Academy. It was a day of incessant and heavy rain, and he returned feeling much fatigued and chilled. But he would not give way, and in spite of lassitude and continued sleeplessness went out shooting for a short time on the following day with Prince Ernest Leiningen, and on the 25th, as we have seen, made the journey from Windsor to Cambridge and back. There were guests at the palace in the latter part of the week, among them the Duc de Nemours, Lord Carlisle, and Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, and the Prince appeared amidst them though suffering. On the 28th of November the Eton College volunteers went through their manœuvres and passed in review before the Queen. The Prince, wrapped in a fur-lined coat, went down to the Walk below the south terrace to see them, and with

the Queen passed round the tables in the conservatory where the volunteers were seated at a luncheon provided for them; but he looked ill, walked very slowly, and, though the day was close and warm, complained of cold and chill.

On Sunday, the 1st of December, the Prince rose early that he might prepare a draft memorandum on the affair of the *Trent*, already referred to, and after walking for half an hour on the garden terrace, accompanied the Queen and the family to chapel; but he could eat nothing at luncheon or at the family dinner, though he was able to talk in his usual pleasant manner, and afterwards to sit quietly listening to the playing of Princess Alice and Princess Marie of Leiningen. Dr. Jenner and Sir James Clark had been to see him, and were evidently uneasy at his condition. On the following day, after a night of cold, shivering, and wakefulness, he was worse, and to the great distress of the Queen the symptoms were regarded as threatening an attack of low fever, a disorder of which the Prince had a peculiar dread, which was perhaps emphasized by his hearing from Lord Methuen (who had come from Lisbon) particulars of the recent illness and death of the Prince and King of Portugal. The word "dread" is, however, scarcely applicable, for it implies fear or dismay, and there was neither. He had said to Lord Methuen that it was well his own illness was not fever, as that, he felt sure, would be fatal to him. Consequently when at last the doctors were obliged to declare the nature of the disease, he was not informed of it. Lord Palmerston had from the first been very uneasy at observing the condition of the patient, and desired to have another physician called in, but the case was not then considered to be so serious as to make this necessary, and as the Prince seemed afterwards to improve, and not only took some nourishment but obtained occasional sleep, encouraging anticipa-

tions of further improvement were formed and expressed to the Queen.

The condition of the patient was one of remarkable and almost fitful changes. He had the greatest reluctance to remain in bed, and would be up and dressed though he had to sit or recline on a sofa. He sometimes had a strange wild look, caused doubtless by the extremely depressed and disturbed nervous system, resulting from want of food and sleep. Whenever he could take nourishment and sleep even for a short time the improvement was obvious, the weakness and nervous depression and irritability, so unlike his usual temperament, disappeared. It is recorded how in one of these intervals of comparative ease he could talk and laugh at the recitation of some French verses by little Princess Beatrice; but the improvement was not lasting, and sleep would not come. There was some difficulty of breathing and signs that the disorder was gastric or low fever, which Dr. Jenner said he and Sir James Clark had been watching for all the time.

Those who know what it is themselves to watch beside one who is near and dear,—to seize with tremulous anxiety upon every favourable assurance, to bear up with hope that turns to fear, and with a simulated courage that breaks into tears when they are alone,—to find the days dim and the nights long and weary with anxious watching for the dawning flush of restored vitality, and yet to lose count of time as the morning hours bring little perceptible change, or only such changes as mark the occasional overlap of the ebbing tide,—only those will realize the sorrow that brooded in that royal home at Windsor.

The Prince liked to have some one read to him, and the Princess Alice was always ready to attend him. Her lively

disposition was subdued to the need for her constant aid, and she became calm, patient, self-controlled, an admirable nurse, and with a deep and devoted love for her father, which remained with her during all her brave and devoted life, a life which was an example of domestic heroism. Sometimes the patient could listen and make appreciative comments, at others it was difficult to find a book that suited or on which he could fix his attention; but it appears that when he could listen at all it was to one of Sir Walter Scott's stories that he was most inclined. To the Queen, who had to give assiduous attention to those duties in which she had no longer the help and counsel of him on whom she had so long been accustomed to lean for support, the days and hours were full of grief and foreboding. "I seem to live in a dreadful dream," her Majesty wrote in her diary on the 7th of December. In the afternoon she had sat by the bedside watching and silently weeping. That night Dr. Jenner and Löhlein (the Prince's valet) sat up with him, and the Queen could not without reluctance leave others—careful and devoted though they were—to minister to his wants; but on the following morning (Sunday) he was better. The weather was light and fine, and by his own desire he was moved into the larger rooms adjoining his own, and known as "the King's rooms." In one of them called the Blue Room the Queen found him lying on the bed when she returned from breakfast. He was evidently enjoying the bright winter sunshine which lighted up the spacious and cheerful rooms, and said he should like some music, a fine chorale played at a distance. A piano was moved into the next room, and the Princess Alice played "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott" and another hymn; the Prince listening with a beautiful and placid expression in his face, and his eyes filled



with tears and looking upward. The Queen attended the morning service in the chapel, where the Rev. Charles Kingsley preached, but she heard nothing; her thoughts, her very senses seemed to be with her husband, to whom she returned that she might read to him—and who, when again, in the evening, he saw the loved presence and heard the familiar voice, smiled with pleasure, murmuring “*liebes Frauchen*” (dear little wife), as he touched the anxious face, and held the dear hands in his own.

The illness was too serious now to permit the reception of guests, and some who had been invited received instructions that the visit would have to be deferred. It was necessary that some public intimation of the Prince's condition should be made, and Dr. Watson and Sir Henry Holland were called in for consultation with the regular physicians; but on the 10th there was still much that was encouraging in the appearance of the patient, who, as he was wheeled on a sofa into the adjoining room, turned to look at the copy on porcelain of the beautiful *Madonna and Child* (Raphael's famous picture) which he had presented to the Queen three years before, and of which, when looking at it again the next day as the Queen assisted him to move from the bed to the sofa, he said, “It helps me through half the day.”

His mind wandered occasionally, and he showed some agitation about the opening of his letters; but the presence of the Queen soothed and quieted him, and early each morning, and at every interval in the claims that were made upon her during the day, she sought to be with him and to cheer him. The place she loved best was that which kept her near him, and he began to be reluctant that she should leave it, even though he knew what were the duties that she had to fulfil, and could still remind her of an important communication which had

to be made. On the 10th he had asked her to read to him from the *Memoirs* of Varnhagen von Ense, a favourite book, but one requiring some attention. Early on the morning of the 11th the Queen supported him as he sat up to take some nourishment, and as she drew the dear head to recline on her shoulder and noted the pale thin face, of which the beauty of the features was more and more refined, he murmured, "It is very comfortable so, dear child."

Alas! the pulses of life were beating very low next day as the Prince lay with clasped hands looking silently at the sky, which he could see through the window to which he was turned. There was some rallying, some return to gentle and loving consciousness, and hourly through the night more favourable reports were conveyed to the Queen by those who sat and watched. Even on the morning of the 14th, when at daybreak her Majesty went into the room as usual, there was some hope that the crisis of the disease had passed; but as the first beams of the morning sun shone into the room, where the anxious faces of the doctors, and the candles burnt to the sockets, betokened the long night watch—those early rays fell also on the thin eager face of the patient, whose bright and wakeful eyes had a far-off look, and noted no immediate surroundings, not even the coming of her whose voice and presence he had always known so well.

The Prince of Wales had been summoned from Maddingley and had arrived at three o'clock in the morning; and at ten o'clock the Queen found him in the room when she returned.

Again there was a rallying of strength, again there was loving recognition in the eyes, again the tender "Gutes Frauchen" was murmured with a kiss; but it was followed by a moaning sigh—the sigh that spoke of leaving her whom to

leave had always been a sorrow, and on whose shoulder he leaned his head once more. The Queen, whose distress was almost insupportable, had stayed beside him except for a few minutes, when, accompanied by the Princess Alice, she had gone out upon the terrace for a breath of air, and the sound of a military band playing at a distance had overcome her and driven her home again. She had then noted the rapid breathing, the dusky hue that seemed to gather over the face and hands, and—perhaps more sadly significant signal—the endeavour of the Prince to arrange his hair as he used to do when dressing or preparing for a journey.

Much wandering and low indistinct speech,—sometimes in French,—half insensibility with occasional glimpses of quick intelligence, followed. The Princess Alice went in and kissed him, and he took her hand. The Prince of Wales, the Princesses Helena and Louise, and Prince Arthur, each took his hand, but he was dozing and made little or no sign. The officers of his household, Sir Charles Phipps, General Grey, Sir Thomas Biddulph, came in and kissed his hand; a hush of grief was upon all. The place of the Queen was by the side of him she loved, and in that crisis of heart-breaking grief she summoned the fortitude which has so often kept her with an appearance of self-command during great crises of her public as well as her private life. The end was near when, later on in the evening, she leaned over him and whispered "*Es ist kleines Frauchen*" (it is your own little wife); and even then the accents of the dear familiar voice reached his inner as well as his outer sense, and he bowed his head and kissed her and dozed off again. Still later and the Queen, who had retired to the adjoining room to give way to her grief, was recalled by the Princess Alice. The end was very near, the breathing like

gentle sighs. As she knelt beside the bed the hand that she clasped was cold. The Princess Alice was on the other side of the bed, at the foot of which knelt the Prince of Wales and the Princess Helena. Prince Ernest Leiningen, the physicians, the Dean of Windsor, the officers of the Prince's household, Major-general the Hon. Sir Robert Bruce, were in that chamber, where the hush was that which comes with the presence of death. Amidst that solemn silence, when moments were as heart throbs of pain and pent-up grief, the chime of the three-quarters after ten sounded from the castle clock. The last long-drawn breaths ceased, and there appeared upon the peaceful lineaments of that loved face the indefinable and more profound calm left by the noble spirit which had passed to the world of great and glorious realities.

When the great bell of St. Paul's tolled out with such sudden emphasis on that December night, people who heard the sound knew that the nation had sustained an irreparable loss, and that their Queen lay well-nigh broken-hearted. Before the morning had dawned, the dire message had sped throughout the country, and people throughout the world bowed their heads in memory of him who had wrought with all his strength for England and for the brotherhood of men. Not alone in this country, where the whole population shared the bereavement of the Queen, left sorrowing and desolate, but in other lands the signs and messages of sympathy showed how great was the sense of the loss that the world had sustained.

On the morning of the 23d of December, 1861, a stately but private funeral procession passed from the great entrance of Windsor Castle through the Norman Tower Gate to St. George's Chapel, where a number of distinguished persons invited to attend the ceremony had assembled, and where those members of the

royal family and other royal personages who were to take part in the procession in the chapel itself, waited in the chapter-house, the remainder of those who were to form part of the same procession having assembled in Wolsey's Chapel. The great number of ministers of state, officers of the royal household, and other noble and eminent mourners on this solemn occasion made the procession which preceded and followed the coffin on its arrival from the south porch up the nave to the choir a remarkable and imposing one. The baton, sword, and hat of the deceased Prince were carried on a black velvet cushion by Lord George Lennox, and the crown of his royal highness upon a similar cushion by Earl Spencer, respectively lord of the bed-chamber and groom of the stole to the Prince. Eight officers of his household supported the pall covering the coffin, which was followed by Garter King-of-arms, immediately preceding the Prince of Wales, who, as chief mourner, was accompanied by his young brother, the little Prince Arthur, and by the sorrowing brother of the deceased Prince, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Then followed Major-general the Hon. Sir Robert Bruce, the Crown-prince of Prussia, the Duke de Brabant, the Count de Flandres, the Duke de Nemours, Prince Louis of Hesse, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Count Gleichen, and the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh.

The mortal remains of the Prince were to be temporarily deposited in the entrance of the royal vault till a mausoleum should be constructed and consecrated for their reception; and the opening sentences of the burial service having been sung by the choir as the procession moved up the nave, the funeral chant of Beethoven, adapted to the 39th Psalm, was performed; and after the first part of the service and Martin Luther's hymn, the coffin was lowered to its place, and the



Dean of Windsor concluded the burial service, two chorales being sung by the choir. Garter King-of-arms then proclaimed the style of the deceased Prince Consort, the royal family and other royal personages were conducted out of the chapel, and the rest of the solemn procession retired as the wailing notes of the dead march in "Saul" sounded with melancholy expression of a mourning that was profound and sincere.

During the ceremony the Prince of Wales endeavoured to control his emotion that he might now and then soothe and console his young brother, the little lad of eleven years old, who sobbed and wept as he heard the sound of the funeral chant; but grief so deep and natural would have its way, and both the sons and the brother—who had lost the dear comrade and friend of boyhood and of manhood—hid their faces and wept. It is recorded that the Prince of Wales, advancing to look into the vault, stood with clasped hands and tearful face, as though he keenly realized that henceforth he stood at the entrance of his own life unaided by the guiding hand and the wise paternal counsel which would have been devoted to his highest welfare.

## CHAPTER VII.

Marriage of Princess Alice. The Cairn at Balmoral. Marriage of Prince of Wales. Princess Alexandra. Death of King of the Belgians. Marriage of Princess Helena. Abyssinian War. Attempted Assassination of Prince Alfred at Sydney. Franco-German War. Marriage of Princess Louise. Illness of Prince of Wales. Recovery. Marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The death of the Prince Consort on the night of Saturday the 14th of December was known not only in London but in various parts of the country before the hour of morning service on the following day. Solemn references to the calamity, and heart-felt prayers for the widowed Queen, were made in churches and chapels where people of all religious denominations met for worship.

Overwhelmed with grief and much physical suffering, her Majesty yet felt some comfort and relief from the conviction that the whole nation was deeply moved with sympathy, and shared the sorrow of her bereavement. Nor was her Majesty slow to recognize the duties which she owed to the people. It was a part of her own character to fulfil those duties which were still demanded of her promptly and assiduously, and that disposition had been strengthened and made habitual by the example of him whose first principle had been a determined and cheerful performance of the trusts that had been committed to him.

For three or four days her Majesty was herself in danger, pitifully weak, sleepless, almost pulseless. The widowed Duchess of Sutherland, one of her Majesty's oldest friends, was sent for, and joined Lady Augusta Bruce in gentle ministrations to

their royal mistress; but during that time of unspeakable sorrow it was the Princess Alice above all who was a real support to her broken-hearted mother. Herself filled with intensest sorrow at her beloved father's death, she at once took into her own hands everything that was necessary in these first dark days of the destruction of that happy home. All communications from the ministers and the household passed through the princess's hands to the Queen, then bowed down by grief. She endeavoured in every way possible, either verbally or by writing, to save her mother all trouble. The decision to leave Windsor for Osborne directly after the Prince's death, according to the urgent wish of the King of the Belgians, and for the sake of the royal children, would scarcely have been accepted by the Queen but for her influence. The gay, bright girl, distinguished for her love of fun and for a certain charm of manner and appearance, which, with her accomplishments in art and music, and her delight in robust exercises,—riding, skating, and swimming,—had made her remarkable in the family, seemed suddenly to develop into a wise, far-seeing woman, living only for others, and beloved and respected by the highest as well as by the lowest.<sup>1</sup>

It was on her arm that the Queen leaned when on the 18th of December she walked round the gardens at Frogmore, and with the Prince of Wales, Prince Louis of Hesse, Sir Charles Phipps, and Sir James Clark, selected the spot where the remains of the Prince Consort should finally be placed in the centre of the mausoleum that was afterwards erected. It was chiefly to her admirable judgment and untiring gentleness and

<sup>1</sup> To estimate the character of this noble, true, and loving woman it is only necessary to read the biographical sketch (*Alice, Grand-duchess of Hesse*, 1884) published with her letters. The preface to this volume, written by her sister the Princess Helena (Princess Christian), is one of the tenderest and most charming evidences that could be given of the amity and affection of the members of the royal family.

affection that the nation owed the rapidly returning fortitude which enabled the sovereign to resume those duties which she alone could fulfil, and those duties have ever since been performed with conscientious and unremitting care. To the time of her great bereavement she shared most of the convictions of the Prince Consort, and many of her opinions were in advance of those that were commonly held by leading statesmen. There is no published record since that time to which reference can be made to show what have been the direct personal influences of the Queen on the important measures and the national lines of policy that have been submitted to her; but there is evidence that her own political convictions have undergone little change.

We shall not be able in forthcoming pages to mark the personal association of our Sovereign Lady with the progress of legislation and the great events of the decade which followed her widowhood; but that she almost immediately resumed, and has ever since continued to sustain, the onerous duties which belong to her as head of the nation, has been repeatedly attested by successive ministers and statesmen. Those who are best qualified to estimate her political observations and experience, her shrewd sense, and great knowledge of foreign policy, regard her opinions as invaluable whenever they are directed to the consideration of matters affecting the well-being of the country. It is no new doctrine that a constitutional sovereign, who, as permanent head of the state, has by a continuous watchful experience learned to understand the precise relations of events, and to follow the apparently tangled threads of foreign diplomacy, is usually better able to judge of the complex relations that have to be considered in adopting a decided policy, than ministers whose official knowledge is limited to their term of government;

but it is to the personal and social life of our Sovereign Lady that attention has been most closely directed in these pages. After her bereavement her Majesty remained much in seclusion, partly because of the grief which caused her to shrink from reappearing in scenes and on occasions when the sense of her loss and widowhood would strike too painfully, but also because her physical strength and power of application would not, otherwise, have sufficed to enable her to maintain the duties which she owed to the state.

In the sympathy of her people and the love of her children the Queen found solace and peace, associated with the constant memory of him who had been beloved by her and by them. The poet laureate caught and repeated the key-note—the great diapason—of the public sentiment when, dedicating a new edition of the *Idylls of the King* to the memory of the Prince Consort, he wrote:—

. . . “We have lost him: he is gone:  
We know him now: all narrow jealousies  
Are silent; and we see him as he moved,  
How modest, kindly, all-accomplished, wise,  
With what sublime repression of himself,  
And in what limits, and how tenderly;  
Not swaying to this faction or to that;  
Not making his high place the lawless perch  
Of wing'd ambitions, nor a vantage-ground  
For pleasure; but through all this tract of years  
Wearing the white flower of a blameless life,  
Before a thousand peering littlenesses,  
In that fierce light which beats upon a throne  
And blackens every blot: for where is he  
Who dares foreshadow for an only son  
A lovelier life, a more unstain'd, than his?



Break not, oh woman's heart, but still endure;  
Break not, for thou art Royal, but endure,  
Remembering all the beauty of that star  
Which shone so close beside thee, that ye made  
One light together, but has past and leaves  
The Crown a lonely splendour.

May all love,  
His love, unseen but felt, o'ershadow thee,  
The love of all thy sons encompass thee,  
The love of all thy daughters cherish thee,  
The love of all thy people comfort thee,  
Till God's love set thee at his side again!"

Though the Queen preserved comparative seclusion, she had not ceased to note all that affected the welfare of the people, their struggles, joys, and sufferings; and it was amidst the lamentations for a distressing calamity at the Hartley Colliery, Newcastle-on-Tyne, that her voice was again heard in a message to the sufferers. On the 16th of January, 1862, a great iron beam snapped asunder and carried with it the pumping machinery and gearing, weighing many tons, down the shaft, imprisoning more than two hundred men in the pit, which thus became their grave. The Queen caused repeated telegraphic messages to be sent to her at Osborne during the efforts to rescue the men, and when it was known that these efforts were unavailing she commanded Colonel Phipps to write: "The Queen, in the midst of her own overwhelming grief, has taken the deepest interest in the mournful accident at Hartley, and up to the last had hoped that at least a considerable number of the poor people might have been recovered alive. The appalling news since has afflicted the Queen very much. Her Majesty commands me to say that her tenderest sympathy is with the poor widows and mothers, and that her own misery only makes

her feel the more for them. Her Majesty hopes that everything will be done to alleviate their distress, and her Majesty will have a sad satisfaction in assisting in such a measure." A subscription, to which the Queen contributed £200, was announced, and eventually amounted to over £80,000 for the relief of 103 widows, 257 children, and other relatives, making a total of 407 persons who had been dependent for support on those who had perished.

It must have added to the trials which were borne by the Queen to remember that she must soon part with the daughter who had been so dear and helpful to her in her great sorrow; but though the marriage of the Princess Alice had necessarily been deferred because of the illness and death of the Prince Consort,—calamities which had thrust even thoughts of her marriage into the background:—those preparations for the wedding and for the princess's household, which the Prince himself had arranged before his death, were now resumed and carried out.

The marriage was solemnized at Osborne on the 1st of July, 1862, at one o'clock, and though all the brothers and sisters of the bride, the Crown-prince of Prussia, the parents and brothers and sisters of the bridegroom, and a large company of royal and distinguished personages were present, the ceremony was regarded as private. It was celebrated by the Archbishop of York in the absence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was too ill to attend. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha led the bride to the altar, the bridegroom being accompanied by his brother Prince Henry. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Queen withdrew to her own apartments, after the dejeuner the guests left Osborne, the newly-married pair with a small suite going to St. Clare, near Ryde, a pleasant house belonging to Colonel and Lady Catherine Harcourt.

There they remained three days before leaving England for Brussels, where they stayed for a short time, and arrived at Bingen on the Hessian frontier on the 12th of July. They were received by the grand-duke and all the family before entering Darmstadt, which was traversed in state amidst streets gay with decorations and filled with enthusiastic crowds; for the character of the English princess was already known and beloved by the people there, who soon learned that she was worthy of their deep affection.

Princess Alice—as she continued to be called in England—strove to model her unpretentious household on the principles that she had learned from her father. She devoted herself to a life of duty, in which works of charity and mercy, and organizations for the personal relief and improvement of the poor and ignorant, took a prominent place, and were continued with undiminished ardour after the death of the grand-duke and of her husband's father the Prince Charles, when her husband Prince Louis himself became Grand-duke of Hesse. A visit to Coburg, a long stay at Auerbach (where they occupied a pleasant little country house lent them by the grand-duke), and excursions to Heidelberg and elsewhere, occupied the remaining summer months after her marriage; but then and in succeeding years the Princess Alice wrote constantly to her mother, and her letters, to the publication of which reference has already been made, are deeply touching and characteristic.

In the autumn the Queen was to visit Germany, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, the Princesses Helena, Louise, and Beatrice, and Princess Hohenlohe, and after staying for a short time with her uncle at Laeken was to proceed to Reinhartsbrunn in the Thuringian Forest, where she was to meet Prince Louis and Princess

Alice, the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia with their two children, and Prince Alfred,—a family reunion which would go far to mitigate the bitterness of the still recent bereavement. At this meeting it was arranged that the Prince Louis and Princess Alice should return on a visit to England for the winter months, and stay during the early spring, for another wedding was approaching, at which it was desirable that all the royal family should be present—that of the Prince of Wales with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

The Princess, whose full names are Alexandra Caroline Mary Charlotte Louisa Julia, eldest daughter of Christian, Duke of Glucksburg, and of Louise, daughter of the Landgrave William of Hesse-Cassel, was not quite nineteen years of age. Her father the Duke Christian was heir apparent to the crown of Denmark, to which he was to succeed by the settlement made in 1852, when by a treaty the Great Powers provided for the integrity of the Danish monarchy by settling the succession on Prince Christian of "Schleswig Holstein Glucksburg," whose wife, by virtue of certain family renunciations, had become heiress of the royal crown of Denmark. Prince Frederick, the elder brother of the Princess Alexandra, was a general in the Danish army; Prince William, the brother who came next to herself, a midshipman in the Danish navy; her sisters were the Princesses Dagmar and Thyra; and Prince Waldemar was her younger brother. All these names soon became familiar to people in England; for the marriage itself was soon exceedingly popular, and it had for some time been understood that when the Prince of Wales went to witness the military manœuvres on the Rhine in 1861, that visit had been made the occasion of his introduction to the Danish princess, that a mutual regard sprang up between them, and that the Princess Royal (the

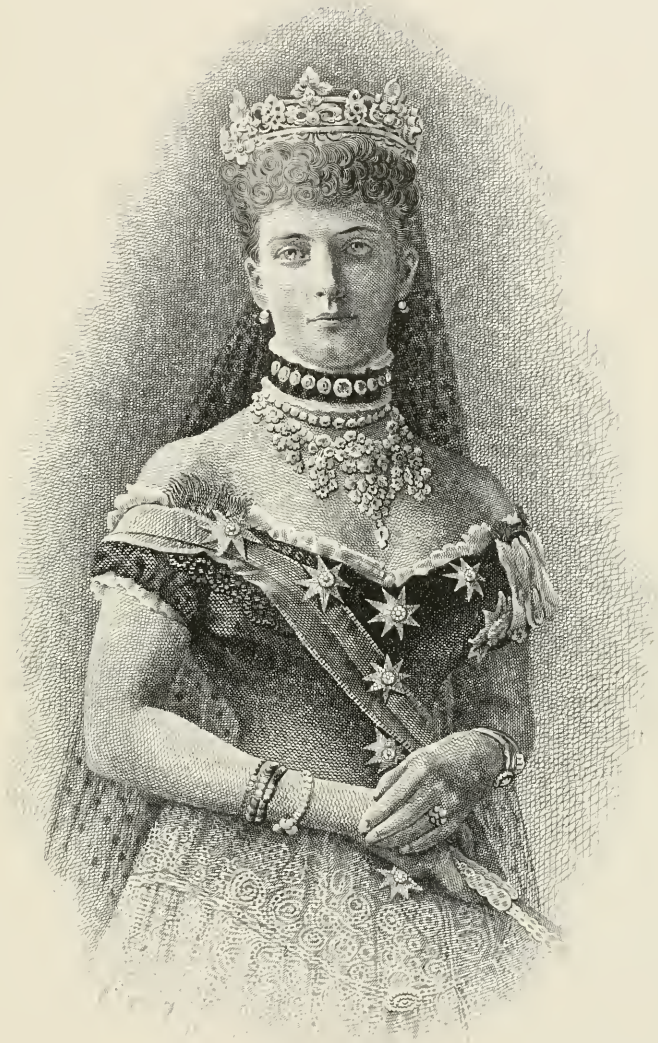
Crown-princess of Prussia) had been credited with the amiable endeavour to bring the two young people together.

The Prince of Wales may be said to have performed his first public ceremonial in September, 1861, when he presented a new stand of colours to the 36th Regiment at the Curragh Camp. On the 31st of October that year he was made a bencher of the Middle Temple, on the occasion of his opening the new library, which had been erected at a cost of £14,000.

It had been designed by the Prince Consort that his royal highness should make a tour in the East, travelling privately as Baron Renfrew, and though the journey had been necessarily abandoned for a time, the wishes of the lamented head of the family were in this respect, as in others, duly observed. In the early days of February the Prince, accompanied by General Bruce, the Rev. Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, regius professor of ecclesiastical history at Oxford, and some other gentlemen, visited Alexandria, the Pyramids, Thebes, Jaffa, and Jerusalem, which was reached on the 31st March. The Prince and a small suite were permitted as a great favour to enter the tombs of the patriarchs at Hebron, and at Mount Gerizim the party witnessed the celebration of the Samaritan passover. On Easter-day, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, holy communion was celebrated by Dr. Stanley. The return journey, after spending some weeks in Syria, was by way of Smyrna, Constantinople, Athens, Cephalonia, and Malta, and the Prince had arrived at Windsor Castle on the 4th of June, after four months' absence, during which, on the 1st of May, the International Exhibition of 1862 had been opened by the Duke of Cambridge, who represented the Queen.

The Prince Consort had given his practical aid and advice in settling all the primary arrangements for this undertaking,





H. R. H.  
ALEXANDRA  
PRINCESS OF WALES

Engraved by  
F. & A. Philbrick & Co. 1857  
By Bussard & Lohr



and though his place at the head of their councils knew him no more, its promoters had energetically carried out the scheme for erecting a great building on a space of ground inclosing the grounds of the Horticultural Society at Kensington Gore. The area was about half as large again as that of the former building at Hyde Park, and the structure was only partly composed of glass, the walls up to 60 feet being of brick, and the building being designed to afford greater protection to the superb collection of paintings and art treasures which would be deposited there. There was no great display of pomp or ceremony at the opening, which was celebrated by the musical performance of a cantata—the words by the poet-laureate referring in touching language to the late Prince Consort, no longer there to inaugurate the work so greatly due to his “world-compelling plan.” The Duke of Cambridge expressed to the commissioners the warm interest which the Queen took in the success of the exhibition, which, after a procession of distinguished visitors through the building, he declared in her Majesty’s name to be open.

The public interest and admiration for the building and its contents was not at first so ardent as it had been for the fairy-like structure and rare examples of art and industry in 1851; but it was soon discovered that this second world’s show, though it lacked some of the features of its predecessor, and though the civil war in America doubtless had some effect in diminishing the number of visitors, contained a vast number of magnificent objects, and strikingly manifested the progress that had been made in mechanical industries, and the application of art to manufactures, in the years during which the earnest endeavours of the Prince Consort and those who wrought with him had been practically acknowledged.

The ratification of a treaty between her Majesty's government and the United States of America for the suppression of the African slave-trade was a suggestive feature of the month in which this exhibition was opened; but the abolition of slavery itself in the Southern States of America was not to be achieved till the termination of the civil war by the suppression of the Southern or Confederate endeavours to effect a secession, and by the reunion of the states to the Federal government of the North. Meanwhile perpetual endeavours were being made to run the blockade of the Southern ports by vessels carrying stores or arms and ammunition to the Confederates, and as some of these blockade-runners issued from British shipbuilding yards, the exasperation of the United States government at this apparent breach of the neutrality which we had so loudly proclaimed was excusable. Our government made efforts to seize and confiscate such contraband ships, and some were captured on the voyage or before they succeeded in passing the blockade at Charleston; but though the risk was great the profits were large when a cargo could be run in, and so both blockade-runners and armed cruisers were launched till the measures adopted were too strong and the vigilance of our government too strict to permit these contraband proceedings. This, however, was not till after a British-built steam-vessel called the *Alabama* had, on the 29th of July, 1862, contrived to depart from Liverpool in spite of the instruction of the authorities, and having made the voyage to Terceira, received the Confederate Captain Sumner on board, who at once declared that she had been built as a vessel of war to act against the shipping of the Federal States. This declaration was carried out, and the *Alabama* committed much damage, for which the United States afterwards made heavy claims on the British

government as a neutral power, by whose culpable negligence, it was alleged, a vessel had been permitted to be built and despatched to aid the rebellion.

During the period of the civil war, while no consignments of cotton could come from the southern ports of America, our operatives in Lancashire were suffering the greatest distress, and efforts had to be made to relieve the want of the thousands of starving families, who were deprived of employment; but the people who suffered were not only comparatively uncomplaining, but when once they rightly understood the causes and probable consequences of the strife that was raging in America, they were almost universally on the side of the Northern States, whose claims to reunite the country under one government, to treat the attempt at disunion as rebellion, and to declare against the continuance of negro slavery in the cotton and other plantations of the South, they upheld even when it seemed that the best hope of the cotton industry in England would be in the triumph or the acknowledgment of the Southern Confederacy.

It need scarcely be said that the Queen was deeply concerned by the distress in Lancashire, and was anxious to encourage the means of alleviation, amidst which were the improved growth and increased importation of cotton from India.

Before leaving Germany her Majesty went to pay a sadly interesting visit to Coburg, where she once more met the old and faithful Baron Stockmar, now crushed, as she had been, by the sense of the latest overwhelming bereavement; and himself waiting for his own summons hence, which he had long been expecting. The journey and the visit to well-loved scenes and people was a trial to her Majesty; but it eased the heart pain in that mysterious way which is in accordance with human experience, and there was much to look forward to in the



expectation that the Princess Alice and her Prince Louis would soon follow her to England to make a long stay in the old home.

A quiet but not unhappy gathering was held at Windsor. There were still anxieties as well as sorrows. The death of General Bruce almost immediately after his return with the Prince of Wales from the Eastern tour, was the cause of deep regret in the royal circle, and his widow was in personal attendance on the Queen, who had just been presented by the Duchess of Sutherland with a Bible from "many widows of England," to whom her Majesty expressed her heart-felt thanks for their sympathy to their widowed Queen.

Early in the morning of the 18th December (1862) the mortal remains of the Prince Consort were removed from the entrance to the vault in St. George's Chapel to the mausoleum which was now completed at Frogmore. The ceremony was entirely private, attended by the three princes who were at home and Prince Louis of Hesse. Prince Alfred was still absent in the Mediterranean, and, much to the concern of the royal family, was reported to be suffering from an attack of fever, which for some time caused great anxiety, but from which he completely recovered. The health of the King of the Belgians, too, was in a very precarious state, and many fears were entertained on his behalf.

At the opening of parliament on the 5th of February, 1863, the Queen's speech referred to the treaty concluded with the King of Denmark for the marriage of the Prince of Wales and the Princess Alexandra; and at an afternoon sitting of the House of Lords the Prince took his seat for the first time, wearing the uniform of a general in the army, and the scarlet robe with ermine bars, indicating his rank as Duke of Cornwall. He also wore "the George" and the Star of the new order of India, which

had been instituted by the Queen, who made the first investiture in November, 1861. His royal highness, having taken the oath and seated himself on the chair of state for a few seconds, advanced to the woolsack, received the congratulations of the lord-chancellor, and retired. In the evening he attended a debate on the address, taking his seat on the cross benches.

These public functions going very much in a regular order depending on precedent or usage, we next find his royal highness at a civic banquet as the guest of the company of Fishmongers, and being presented with the freedom of that corporation. The City, indeed, was always ready to welcome and make much of him, and he has seldom shown reluctance to respond to the invitations of civic hospitality.

On the 19th of February proposals for the settlements to be made on the Prince and his bride on their marriage were brought forward in parliament by Lord Palmerston and unanimously adopted. His royal highness was to receive £100,000 a year—£40,000 from the consolidated fund, and £60,000 from the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall,—and £10,000 was voted for the separate use of the Princess of Wales, and £30,000 a year in the event of her surviving his royal highness.

Preparations had been made for the celebration of the marriage in a manner worthy of so important an event, and it was already understood that on her arrival in this country the reception of the Princess Alexandra would far transcend any mere state pageant, for the people had already determined that the young and beautiful bride would belong to them as the wife of the heir to the throne, while her Danish kinship was everywhere spoken of as an additional reason for giving her a place in the affections of those amidst whom she was about to make her home.

On the 25th of February the Princess, accompanied by her parents, her brothers and sisters, and Mr. Paget, the British minister in Denmark, left Copenhagen amidst the affectionate farewells of ministers of state, high functionaries, and crowds of people who had assembled at the railway-station, which was beautifully decorated with flowers, while flowers were scattered from the windows of the houses on the route. At each station on the journey cordial manifestations of good-will awaited the travellers, and at Hamburg and Hanover the reception was enthusiastic. The servants of the King of Hanover waited on the distinguished visitors at the Royal Hotel, and in the evening his majesty gave a great state banquet in their honour at the palace of Herrenhausen. From Hanover the Princess and her relatives went to visit the King of the Belgians at Laeken, and thence departed for England.

From the moment that the Princess left Copenhagen till she embarked on board the royal yacht the *Victoria and Albert*, which was to convey her to Gravesend, her journey had been marked by demonstrations of loyal regard, and by the presentation of gifts and addresses appropriate to her who was about to wed the heir to the British throne, and whose personal charm and lovely youthful presence won the popular regard and enlisted every loyal sentiment. But these cordial greetings and well-suited expressions of public interest, which made the journey resemble a royal progress, were as nothing to the tremendous welcome, the tumultuous and universal outburst of genuine loyalty and affection, which awaited her in London.

On Saturday the 7th of March, the inhabitants of the metropolis were early astir, and all was bustle and excitement in the streets which were to be the line of route taken by the royal procession. At Gravesend, where the Princess was to land,

and where the Prince of Wales was to meet his bride, the lords of the admiralty in the *Black Eagle* were in attendance to salute the royal yacht as it swung round in the river and approached the landing-stage and the pier, where the municipal authorities of the town and a number of noble and distinguished persons were to receive the Princess. All the available space on either side was filled with tiers of seats occupied by ladies fashionably dressed, and their attendant gentlemen. As the yacht was signalled and circled into the river, all eyes were directed to the deck, whereon a lady dressed in white appeared. As a great cheer resounded from the crowded assembly on the pier, and as the vessel drew near, that slight graceful figure was seen to bow in recognition of the welcome that had first greeted her. With a glance half timid, half glad, the Princess—for it was she—looked round at the great ships, the flotilla of gaily decked boats, the fluttering flags and pennons, the tiers of faces on the pier, the crowds that occupied every available space. Twice she retreated to the deck cabin, and twice returned to the deck, to acknowledge the hearty and continued cheering. Then there was a diversion. The royal yacht had drawn up closer; there was a stir and renewed shouts of applause, and the Prince of Wales, punctual to the moment, was already making his way along the pier. He was in the ordinary morning dress of an English gentleman, and appeared to court no special recognition or distinction, though he bowed right and left with pleasing grace, in response to the repeated bursts of cheering. His face was radiant, his gaze fixed on the Princess, who had now returned to the deck of the yacht, whither the municipal and other dignitaries had gone to receive her. The Prince stepped quickly on board, and, raising his hat as he approached, reached the side of the Princess, whom he tenderly embraced and saluted by kissing her cheek.

The greeting was witnessed with evident satisfaction and approval, as being in right good English fashion; and when, a few minutes afterwards, the youthful pair walked together to the landing-stage and along the pier, where a number of pretty young damsels, dressed in white with scarlet cloaks and hoods, strewed violets before the bride elect, the shouting and waving of hats and handkerchiefs continued till the royal party had entered the carriages which were to convey them to the railway-station.

The railway journey to London was performed in a somewhat leisurely manner, that the crowds which gathered at the various stations might be gratified by seeing the Prince and Princess; and when the terminus at Bricklayers' Arms Station was reached, it soon became evident that the spectacle during the progress through the metropolis would surpass any previous demonstration of the kind. Neither the Queen nor the government had been prepared for such a superb spontaneous manifestation of public enthusiasm. It was expected that certain streets on the line of route would be decorated, it was known that arrangements had been made for that purpose, and it was anticipated that a large number of people would assemble in the principal thoroughfares; but the loyalty of the people of London, and indeed of the whole country, took individual as well as collective expression. Even by-streets and poor and unpretentious houses showed their flags, wreaths, and signs of welcome; and where there had been combined plans for decoration the effect exceeded anything of the kind that had been attempted within living memory.

It was as though the nation, which had been mourning with the Queen, yielded impulsively to the sense of natural reaction which came with tidings of the approaching wedding. It was felt that the emblems of sorrow might be laid aside; that



the perfume of the orange blossom was in the air rather than the faint receding odour of the hyacinth; that the bells should ring out in clear and rapid chimes instead of sounding only in muffled peals. In a nuptial ode, written by Professor Aytoun, the rhythmical verse, changing to various moods, well expressed the general feeling in some of the lines which said:

Lay we the sombre weeds of mourning by,  
And hail the advent of the genial sun,  
No longer overcast  
By woeful clouds that with their curtain dun,  
And evil-omened pall,  
Made dark the year of our calamity.  
O ruthless year! sad and unblest to all;  
Most fraught with anguish to the heart of One,  
Who evermore shall mourn,  
Reft of her lord, her lover, and her stay!  
In awe and silence veil that sacred urn,  
Quit the dim vault, and pass into the day!  
Not ours with impious plaint to censure doom,  
Or murmur, when we rather need to pray.  
"God call'd His servant home—His will be done!"  
What more can mortals say?  
Enough of tears are shed;  
Unmeasured wailing desecrates the dead,  
And vain repining but profanes the tomb!

The Bricklayers' Arms terminus, with its ugly brick and mortar and its goods sheds, had been transformed into a festal bower: banks of flowers concealed its sordid features; flags, banners, and wreaths adorned its prosaic iron girders and murky walls; a grand-stand filled with brightly-attired ladies gave it life and animation; and when, after a light luncheon, the Prince and Princess entered an open carriage and, accompanied by the royal relatives and by the Duke of Cambridge and the

distinguished personages who had come to receive them, started on the journey to Paddington, they had to pass beneath a splendid triumphal arch.

On London Bridge the decorations were perhaps more magnificent than at any other point in the journey. Pictures, statuary, sumptuous hangings, rich ornamentation, lofty bronze tripods surmounted with vessels of burning incense, shields with strange devices, and tall masts and pennons combined to make a magnificent spectacle. At the Middlesex end of the bridge, where open space and the statue of King William IV. gave opportunity for an effectual display, the lord-mayor and civic dignitaries joined the procession. At the Royal Exchange there was another splendid spectacle, and at the Mansion House the lady-mayor came down to present the Princess with a superb bouquet. St. Paul's Churchyard was a marvellous spectacle. Seats had been erected to accommodate 12,000 persons. Temple Bar had been converted into a gorgeous work of decorative art. The procession through London was one long journey beneath a canopy of flags, banners, garlands, and streamers, and at every available point special arches, trophies, or illustrative structures marked, as it were, the stages of the progress. But the real spectacle was the vast multitude of people who filled the streets, so that it seemed almost impossible that the cavalcade should be able to pass along the city thoroughfares, and in Cheapside and Fleet Street especially, the cavalry escort and mounted police were compelled as gently as possible to act as a wedge to make a way through the dense mass. There were moments of very serious peril, for the crowd was already packed so closely that anything like violent pressure and struggle must have resulted in injury and loss of life. There were cases of very grave injury at different points of

the route, and more than one fatality. Such a tremendous popular demonstration had not been expected, and the arrangements for providing against probable confusion and disaster had not been sufficient; but general order and good-humour prevailed, and though there were occasional panics and some painful accidents, the serious casualties were very few when the length of the route was considered.

Every avenue in which a glimpse of the procession could be obtained was filled. Every house and shop front resembled tiers of private boxes, from which smiling faces shone with welcome. From the ridges of the roofs to the lowest doorways people clustered. On steeples and the parapets of great buildings determined sight-seers seemed to cling for hours during that keen March morning. At every available point platforms were erected, where school children stood and sang, or ladies' gala dresses added colour and brightness to the scene. It needed only the presence of the Princess, for whom the vast population waited, to make the occasion historical. From the first moment of her appearance the hearts of the people spoke in a great shout of happy and appreciative greeting which outrang the pealing bells and made one mighty sound from the bridge that spanned the Thames to the ancient city, and thence along the Strand, Pall Mall, and Piccadilly to Hyde Park, where a great muster of volunteers took up the cry; and so to the station at Paddington, where, having safely emerged from the vast multitudinous sea of loyal humanity, the objects of this unparalleled demonstration took train to Windsor.

Nor was the welcome confined to London alone. In all the principal towns and popular centres of the kingdom a general holiday was held, and there were feasting and loyal celebrations. On every peak and headland on the coast, and



The interior of St. George's Chapel, always solemn and imposing, with the stalls of the knights beneath banners and coronets, the great stained-glass windows, and the fine reredos, was a magnificent setting for the ladies in brilliant toilets, lace, and diamonds, who filled the galleries with sheen and colour,—mauve and magenta being the fashionable hues at that time, when expansive crinolines provided striking breadth of tint and ample space for ornamentation.

In the nave the great officers of the household were resplendent, and at the further end Mr. Frith, the artist, in court dress, waited near the communion table making sketches for his picture of the marriage. The peeresses and ladies of high rank, who had seats in the choir, gave superb brightness and colour to the scene, and a number of them occupied front seats down each side of the length of the nave. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and the Dean of Windsor were there ready to commence the ceremony. The Knights of the order of the Garter, in gorgeous purple robes and splendid collars, took their places in the stalls. Heralds in tabards stood in a glittering group awaiting the coming of the principal personages from beyond the great crimson curtain at the end, which was already partially raised. At the altar the golden glow of the communion plate, the white lawn of the episcopal sleeves, the striking scarlet robe of the Dean of Windsor, who was thus distinguished as chaplain of the order of the Garter, all added to the wonderful effect of the scene at the moment that every eye was turned to a lady who had entered the pew or stall known as the royal closet, above the north side of the communion table. A thrill of emotion went through the brilliant assembly. It was the Queen. Her Majesty had come in by the private way and was now seated, attired in widow's



deepest mourning, and wearing for ornament only the collar and George of the highest order of English chivalry.

The bridegroom, supported by his brother-in-law the Crown-prince of Prussia, and by his uncle the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, entered the chapel preceded by court trumpeters, the kings of arms, and officers of his household, and followed by equerries and gentlemen in attendance. His royal highness wore a general officer's uniform with the mantle of the order of the Garter, and the jewels of the Garter and of the Indian order. He bowed right and left as he passed along, and with marked reverence to the Queen as he approached the communion table, where he waited for the coming of the bride, as the organ continued playing the march from *Athalie*.

Another blare of trumpets announced the bride's approach, and the assembly rose with faces turned towards the nave as the procession appeared, preceded by heralds, Lieutenant-general the Hon. Sir Edward Cust, master of the ceremonies, members of the Danish legation, and the Danish minister. Then followed the bride, supported on either hand by her father and the Duke of Cambridge. Her dress was of white silk, covered with magnificent white lace, and with a train of unusual dimensions. Her royal highness wore a profusion of orange flowers, a superb pearl and diamond necklace, brooch, and ear-rings. These were the presents of the bridegroom. The opal and diamond bracelet was the gift of the Queen. The city of London had prepared a wedding gift of *rivières* of diamonds. A magnificent parure of opals and brilliants designed by the late Prince Consort, and intended by him as the joint gift of himself and the Queen, was among the many splendid presents, which were afterwards exhibited.

As the bride entered, the band played Handel's march from

"Joseph," and as the procession advanced joined the choir in a chorale composed by the late Prince Consort. As the Princess took her place the eight bridesmaids who had borne her train clustered round her. They were the ladies Victoria Scott, Elma Bruce, Emily Villiers, Feodore Wellesley, Diana Beauclerc, Victoria Howard, Agneta Yorke, and Eleanor Hare. The Princess having risen after kneeling in private prayer, in which the Queen with bowed head was seen to join, the archbishop impressively and distinctly read the service, which was that morning being solemnized in many other churches throughout the kingdom, for numbers of intending brides had chosen to be married on the same day as the Princess Alexandra. When the blessing was solemnly pronounced those present were much affected; it had been previously noticed that the royal princesses had held their bouquets to their faces to conceal their tears, and it was now observed that during the blessing her Majesty was leaning forward praying, with her face buried in her handkerchief.

After a beaming glance and a bow to the Queen from the newly married pair, the procession re-formed and left the chapel, the Prince and Princess of course walking hand in hand, and returning in the same carriage to the castle, where her Majesty received them at the grand entrance. Then followed the signing of the registers, after which the wedding breakfast was served for the royal guests in the dining-room, and for others in St. George's Hall. At four o'clock the wedded pair were conveyed in an open carriage, drawn by four cream-coloured horses to the station, whither the Crown-princess of Prussia had already gone to bid them good-bye as they departed by the train for Osborne, still followed by the "thundering cheer of the street." At night most of the large towns in the kingdom

were illuminated, and in London, where many of the more imposing decorations had remained in the streets since the reception of the Princess, the display was so brilliant and attractive that vast crowds filled the principal thoroughfares till the dawn of the following day paled the coloured lamps and flaring gas-jets, and the superb devices that had lighted great public buildings faded in presence of the sun.

Marlborough House was, as we have seen, in course of renovation for the residence of the Prince of Wales in London; but his royal highness, who had already attained some reputation in the hunting field, and was fond of the exercise to be gained by pheasant and partridge shooting, had purchased the Sandringham Hall estate in Norfolk, about eight miles east of King's Lynn, a locality abounding in game and surrounded by fine preserves and resorts for wild fowl which settle there in the winter. Sandringham Hall itself was a dwelling of no very remarkable character, but was fairly commodious as a shooting-box for the Prince and his friends; and it was intended that a building suitable for a princely residence should take its place; and some of the principal inhabitants of the district combined to purchase, as a present to his royal highness, the famous Norwich bronze gates, which had attracted much attention at the international exhibition, and were admirably suited for an appropriate ornament to Sandringham Park. The estate cost £220,000, at a nominal rental of £7000 a year, and was purchased by the Prince out of the fund which had been accumulated by the careful management of the affairs of the duchy of Cornwall by the Prince Consort.

During the autumn of 1862 the political disturbances in Greece had resulted in an insurrection. The agreement of the Great Powers to concede the Ionian Islands should their

inhabitants elect to be joined to the Greek kingdom, again aroused the Hellenic people to change the form of government maintained by King Otho (brother to Maximilian of Bavaria), who, having accepted the offer of the crown in 1833, after it had been declined by Prince Leopold, had failed to satisfy the demands of a people who were too fickle and turbulent for a republic, and yet were too much influenced by notions of national liberty to endure any but a liberally constituted monarchy. At any rate, after thirty years of royalty at Athens, Otho was "persuaded" to abdicate, and the Hellenes, determined to secure a national constitution and to elect a sovereign who would help them to establish a limited monarchy, began to consider on whom they should confer the honour of governing them. Several European princes were mentioned, but few seemed to care to undertake the difficult task, and many were ineligible. The choice of the people of Greece was evidently fixed on our Prince Alfred; and when the *plebiscite* commenced it was seen that his would be the name almost universally returned in the voting. Her Majesty and the British government, however, while thanking the Greeks for the high compliment, were obliged to decline the honour, as it was contrary to the British constitution for an English prince to become sovereign of another independent nation. The Greeks seem then to have considered that the next best thing was to choose a prince associated with the English royal family, and accordingly elected the second son of Duke Christian of Denmark. Thus the brother of the Princess of Wales was made George the First of Greece, by decree of the National Assembly, on the 31st of March, 1863, when he was about eighteen years of age; and it may be mentioned here that in 1867 he married the Princess Olga, daughter of the Grand-duke Constantine of Russia.

In November (1863), Duke Christian succeeded to the throne of Denmark on the death of Ferdinand VII., with whom the dynasty of the house of Oldenburg was extinct.

The splendid wedding celebrations had concluded, and Mr. Frith was commencing to paint the picture of the scene in St. George's Chapel, at the royal request—a commission which Landseer told his brother-artist he would not have undertaken “for all the money in this world, and all in the next,” but one which, of course, could not well be refused, though, for the thousand pounds that were to be paid for it, an agreement for three thousand pounds for other work had to be put aside. We have this from Mr. Frith's *Autobiography and Reminiscences*, recently published, which contains some amusing particulars in connection with the great picture. The Queen was pleased with the first sketch; but the difficulty was to obtain sittings from those who were present, and to borrow the dresses that were worn, especially as many of the distinguished company were foreigners, and departed almost immediately after the wedding, so that the sketches alone were available. Some of the noble and lovely ladies were inclined to show a contrary temper; and Mr. Frith tells us: “Though I lost not a moment in impressing on all who were present at the wedding that I must have their dresses to paint from, I was told by several that the gowns were already taken to pieces, given away, or cut up into mementoes of the interesting event, &c. In reply, I threatened them with the Queen if the dresses were not produced; and, strange to say, the destroyed ones became miraculously whole again, and were sent to me.” The bridesmaids, however, were very kind in sitting, and one of them, Lady Diana Beauclerc, “a most sweet creature, sat divinely for three hours.”



The funniest bit of characteristic by-play in this artistic episode was when the Bishop of Oxford and Lord-chancellor Westbury had respectively to sit for their portraits. They had been "at daggers drawn" in the House of Lords, and when the lord-chancellor attended the studio, and his eye caught the painting (then in progress) of the Bishop of Oxford, he said: "Ah! Sam of Oxford! I should have thought it impossible to produce a tolerably agreeable face, and yet preserve any resemblance to the Bishop of Oxford!" And when the bishop saw the portrait of Westbury, he said: "Like him? Yes; but not wicked enough!"

But the artist was most dismayed by the difficulty of obtaining a satisfactory sitting from the Princess of Wales herself, who seemed to be unaware that it was necessary to be still and keep her face in one position. Poor Mr. Frith was at his wits' end, and at last ventured to tell his difficulties to the Prince, who laughingly replied, "You should scold her;" and seems afterwards to have remonstrated with his bride on behalf of the distracted artist. On a subsequent visit to Marlborough House Frith met Gibson the sculptor there, waiting for a sitting from the Princess. On seeing his work, Frith ventured to say that he did not think it was like the illustrious lady; whereupon the sculptor replied: "Well, you see, the Princess is a delightful lady, but she can't sit a bit." "Just at this moment," says Mr. Frith, "I was summoned to the Prince, whom I found with the Princess; and I saw, or thought I saw, a sort of pretty smiling pout, eloquent of reproof and of half-anger with me. The Prince had something to show me, and then he led the way to Gibson, the Princess and I following. No sooner did we find ourselves in the sculptor's presence than—after some remarks upon the bust—the Prince said: 'How do *you* find the

Princess sit, Mr. Gibson?’ Now, thought I, if ever man was in an awkward fix, you are, Mr. Gibson; for after what you said to me a few minutes ago, you cannot in my presence compliment the beautiful model on her sitting. The Prince looked at Gibson, and Gibson looked in dead silence at the Prince, and then at the Princess; he then looked again at the Prince, smiled, and shook his head. ‘There, you see, you neither sit properly to Mr. Gibson nor to Mr. Frith.’ ‘I do, I do,’ said the lady; ‘you are two bad men!’ And then we all smiled; and Gibson went on with his work, the Princess sitting admirably for the short time that I remained. This was a good omen, as I afterwards found.”

The presentation of the freedom of the City to the Prince of Wales followed by a grand ball at the Guildhall in honour of his royal highness and his bride, were among the numerous engagements of the summer, and were almost immediately followed (on the 26th of June) by another magnificent ball, to which their royal highnesses were invited, by the officers of the Guards in the buildings of the International Exhibition at South Kensington, where 2000 guests were present. In October the Prince and Princess went to Sandringham, where they entertained the Prince and Princess Christian, father and mother of the Princess, and Prince Frederick and Princess Dagmar. The Queen, still in retirement, had been constantly occupied by state and family affairs. So soon after the marriage of the Prince of Wales as Easter Sunday the 5th of April, the Princess Louis of Hesse (Princess Alice) had given birth to a daughter at Windsor Castle, where, on the 27th, the infant was christened by the Hessian court-chaplain, and received the name of Victoria Alberta Elizabeth Matilda.

The princess completed her recovery at Osborne in the

following month, and was able to accompany her Majesty on a visit to the Royal Military Hospital at Netley, the institution the foundation-stone of which the Prince Consort had laid seven years before. The Queen left London on the 11th of August on a visit to Belgium and Germany, and was accompanied by Prince Alfred, who was again at home, Prince Leopold, and the Princesses Helena, Louise, and Beatrice. Her Majesty took up her abode at the Rosenau, and there the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, and the Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse joined the family circle to spend the birthday of the husband and father for whom they mourned, in the house where he was born, and where all the surrounding associations reminded them of him. There, too, her Majesty received visits from the King of Prussia and the Emperor of Austria.

The Queen's health was still precarious, and she had not recovered her strength, but she was able to visit the widow of the friend whose faithful service and earnest counsels had been so valuable and so esteemed during her whole married life. Stockmar had gone to his rest, or to those renewed activities to which he had long been looking forward. Florschütz, the old tutor, still lived, and also received a visit from the Queen before she quitted Coburg on the 7th of September with her children, to spend the following day at Kranichstein on her way homeward.

The cairn erected on the top of Craig Lowrigan to the memory of the Prince Consort had been commenced on the 21st of August, 1862. The Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Princes Arthur and Leopold, the Princesses Helena and Louise, and "the baby," Princess Beatrice, were there; the foundation of the pile of granite had been prepared, and the Queen wrote: "The view was so fine, the day so bright, and the heather

so beautifully pink; but no pleasure, no joy! all dead! . . . I and my poor six orphans all placed stones on it; and our initials, as well as those of the three absent ones, are to be carved on stones all round it." This cairn was completed in May, 1863, and now stood a sharp pyramid of granite, above thirty feet high, which could be seen all down the valley and for several miles. It bore the inscription:—

TO THE BELOVED MEMORY  
OF  
ALBERT, THE GREAT AND GOOD PRINCE CONSORT,  
RAISED BY HIS BROKEN-HEARTED WIDOW,  
VICTORIA R.  
AUGUST 21, 1862.

"He being made perfect in a short time fulfilled a long time;  
For his soul pleased the Lord,  
Therefore hastened He to take him  
Away from among the wicked."

*Wisdom of Solomon, iv. 13, 14.*

It was said that these lines were suggested by the Crown-princess of Prussia (Princess Royal), and certain captiously "orthodox" persons in Scotland objected to them on the ground that they were from the *Apocrypha*.

The provision of a national memorial to the Prince Consort in London had been proposed, and her Majesty had expressed her intention of personally contributing to it, at the same time suggesting that it should be erected in Hyde Park, on or near the site of the Great Exhibition of 1851. In April, 1863, her Majesty had approved of the design made for this monument by Mr. Gilbert Scott, and parliament had voted £50,000 for the structure in addition to £60,000 received in voluntary subscriptions.



H. R. H.  
LOUISE CAROLINE ALBERTA.  
MARCHIONESS OF LORNE

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Her Majesty, while at Balmoral, had consented to go to Aberdeen on the 13th October (1863), to unveil the statue of the Prince Consort by Marochetti, which had been raised by public subscription and placed in a rather small space near the bridge. The Queen, who was still in poor health and suffering from deep depression, dreaded the painful ordeal. It was a gloomy morning and the rain fell heavily. Her Majesty felt lonely and bewildered, though the two married couples were with her in the railway-carriage from Aboyne. The ceremony was a great trial. "Vicky and Alice were with me, and the long, sad, and terrible procession through the crowded streets of Aberdeen, where all were kindly, but all were silent, was mournful, and as unlike former blessed times as could be conceived."

The large billiard-room of the Northern Club had been prepared for the reception of her Majesty and the distinguished visitors who accompanied her; and there the lord-provost presented but did not read the address, the written reply to which was handed to him; and Sir George Grey having requested him to kneel, her Majesty took Sir George's sword and gave the provost the accolade by touching him on each shoulder, and conferred on him the honour of knighthood. The company then all went out and stood on a wet uncovered platform opposite the statue, and Principal Campbell pronounced a prayer which was too long considering that the rain fell all the time. The covering was with some little difficulty removed from the statue, the troops presented arms, but without a sound of bugle, drum, or pipes from the bands; the Queen quickly but observantly inspected the statue, bowed to the assembly, and the ceremony was over. Her Majesty was evidently ill and much dejected, but maintained complete composure and self-

control. After a slight luncheon in the club the procession was re-formed and returned to the railway-station, by which time the weather had cleared and the Queen was able to drive from Aboyne to Balmoral in an open carriage.

On the 14th of December the Queen and all her children who were at Windsor visited the mausoleum at Frogmore, that wonderfully beautiful tomb and exquisitely constructed edifice, which, by the time that it was completed, was said to have cost her Majesty nearly £200,000. The building, which is half hidden in the luxuriant foliage, is reached by a sideway from the grand double avenue of elms known as the Long Walk, and consists of an octagonal building forming a cross, and superbly decorated with coloured marbles. It then contained only the beautiful recumbent figure of the Prince Consort, sculptured by Marochetti in white marble; but now, alas! memorials of the Princess Alice, the Duke of Albany, and of the grandchildren of the Queen who have died in infancy. In a separate vault, beneath a dome supported by pillars of polished granite and surrounded by a parapet with balconies, lies the sarcophagus of the Duchess of Kent.

From the time of that visit, in 1863, it became the custom for a short religious service to be celebrated there in presence of the royal family on the 14th of December in each year.

At the end of the year her Majesty had to part with her faithful companion and lady-in-waiting, the Lady Augusta Bruce, who married the Rev. Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, then Dean of Westminster, and continued to be the confidential friend of the Queen.

Her Majesty, who had left Windsor Castle for Osborne, leaving the Prince and Princess of Wales at the house at Frogmore, where they occasionally resided, received a message on the

night of the 8th of January (1864) which caused her immediately to return. The Princess of Wales, who had been one of a skating party at Virginia Water in the afternoon, gave birth to a son at a few minutes before nine in the evening; but there was no serious cause for apprehension on account of the health of the Princess or of the infant, who was baptized in the chapel of Buckingham Palace on the succeeding anniversary of the marriage of the Prince and Princess. He received the names of Albert Victor Christian Edward. The Queen was of course one of the sponsors to her grandson, and the aged King of the Belgians was present for the last time that he officiated on such an occasion.

The autumnal visits to Balmoral were still looked forward to by her Majesty as seasons of rest and recreation, and the company of some of her children and of old and tried friends added to the pleasure of those excursions, of which such graphic accounts have been written by the royal hand in the second portion of extracts (More Leaves) from her Majesty's *Journal of a Life in the Highlands*. In her own words and by simple descriptions, her Majesty makes the reader acquainted with the sentiments that moved her heart in the midst of the familiar, but ever new and delightful scenery of the Highlands, or during visits to noble friends or humble dependants, who had themselves sustained bereavements that touched the gentle sympathies of their Queen. We learn, too, how, in her hours of grief and despondency, the consolations of true religion were impressed on her mind by the loyal and faithful ministrations of Dr. Norman Macleod, whose cheerful humour and genial temper aided in brightening an occasional hour that would otherwise have been dim and lowering, and whose robust faith and hearty piety helped to sustain and comfort her in the time of spiritual need.

The Prince of Wales frequently accompanied by the Princess was now taking a prominent part in presiding at important meetings or visiting various institutions, among them the Exhibition in Dublin, which was opened by his royal highness on the 9th of May, 1865. Prince Alfred, who was only in this country at intervals when he returned from his naval duties, had taken his seat in the House of Lords, and on the 6th of August (1865), on his twenty-first birthday, was formally acknowledged by his uncle as heir to the duchy of Saxe-Coburg.

The Queen, accompanied by Prince Leopold, the three younger princesses, and the ladies-in-waiting, again visited Germany in the autumn, and took up her abode at the Rosenau, for the 26th of August, the birthday of the Prince Consort, was to be sacred to a memorial which her Majesty was to inaugurate at Coburg. A handsome gilt bronze statue, ten feet in height, had been set up in the square of the town where he had passed his early years, and it was unveiled on that day with simple but solemn and touching ceremony, at the close of which the Queen with her children walked across the square carrying a profusion of flowers, which were handed to the Duke of Saxe-Coburg to be laid on the pedestal. When each of the children had made this offering the fragrant mass of blooms rose as high as the feet of the statue.

It was generally understood that this royal visit to Germany and Coburg had been the occasion of the betrothal of the Princess Helena to Prince Frederick Christian Charles of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg, the brother of the husband of her Majesty's niece Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe, and an officer in the Prussian service, from which he was about to retire and to take up his abode in England, the Queen intending to make the pleasant house at Frogmore a residence



for the daughter, whom she would then be able to keep near to her, and from whose society she had already derived much solace.

The Queen, no longer prostrated by grief, had yet an abiding sense of sorrow. The pain of the bereavement which she had sustained was mitigated or she could not have endured it—the mourning was not overpast, but it had begun to partake of the nature of a gentle and tender memory. The bitterness of death has to pass for the living, who remain in the shadow and feel the desolation, as well as for those who are taken out of it into the everlasting light. The Princess Alice could now speak freely, in her letters, of the father and the husband who seemed to her to be still an unseen presence watching and blessing those whom he had loved on earth. Her Majesty continued unable to resume her frequent appearances in public, but she was still mindful of all that concerned the happiness and security of the country and the people.

On the 9th of December Leopold, King of the Belgians, died at Laeken only a few days before attaining his seventy-sixth year. His last visit to England and to the Queen had been when he was present at the baptism of the infant Albert Victor of Wales, the great-great-grandson of the king who was still alive when he had himself first come to this country. He had been a wonderfully hale and active man to within a year or two of his death, and had come to the baptism of the English prince though he had a short time before suffered from a slight stroke of paralysis. All who knew of his condition must have been prepared for the event of his death, and the Queen doubtless expected it; but it was another blow, another irreparable loss, and at a time when her Majesty was summoning fortitude and nerve to resume one of her duties of state by opening the

parliament of 1866—a parliament which had lost the man who had been one of the foremost and most distinguished statesmen of the age. Lord Palmerston had died on the 18th of October, 1865, when within two days of completing his eighty-first year.

On the 6th of January, 1866, the Queen appeared in person in the House of Lords for the first time since the death of the Prince Consort, and a great assembly was there to welcome her, though there was no flourish of trumpets, and the robes of state were only laid upon the throne, her Majesty appearing in a dress of dark purple velvet bordered with ermine, and wearing a tiara of diamonds, from behind which depended a white gauze veil.

After her Majesty was seated the Prince of Wales took his place in a chair of state on her right, the Princess standing on the left.

Topics of grave import were referred to in the Queen's speech, the most encouraging of them being our continued friendly relations with foreign powers, the adoption of some commercial treaties, and the termination of the civil war in the United States. On the other hand there had been an outbreak among the negro population of Jamaica, and the unnecessary severity with which it was alleged that the governor, Edward John Eyre, had suppressed it and executed the ringleaders, had resulted in a demand for a commission of inquiry, by which in effect the governor was put on his trial, and, though afterwards acquitted, was subjected to much public odium, especially by the "abolitionists," who claimed for the negroes the right of meeting for the purpose of demanding the redress of abuses. Several crimes had been instigated and disturbances excited by an Irish organization, the members of which called themselves Fenians—from the name of a traditional chief or king. This

Fenian conspiracy was largely supported by the Irish in America, and many of the worst features of former attempts at rebellion had been repeated or exaggerated, while further deeds of violence and lawless aggression were threatened. The government had also to consider a measure for staying the rinderpest, a cattle plague supposed to have been brought to this country by the importation of foreign cattle in a diseased condition. The subject of parliamentary reform was again agitating the country, and measures were to be taken to make inquiries with a view to the revision of the laws regulating the right of voting in counties, cities, and boroughs.

The speech also announced the approaching marriage of the Princess Helena. At a subsequent sitting of parliament the allowance voted to the princess was £6000 a year and a dowry of £30,000, the same as that of the Princess Alice. The provision granted for Prince Alfred was £15,000 a year, payable from the day on which he attained his majority. On the 25th of May his royal highness was created Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Ulster, and Earl of Kent. In March he had been installed as master of the Trinity House.

In February the Queen had been greatly afflicted by the death of Sir C. B. Phipps, keeper of her Majesty's privy-purse, and ever a devoted friend and assiduous servant, for whom she and the Prince Consort had felt the highest esteem as one worthy of implicit confidence. On the 24th of March the death at Claremont of the aged Amélie, ex-queen of the French, severed another link of those associations which were now becoming only cherished memories.

On the 3d of June, 1865, another son, Prince George, had been born to the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Crown-princess of Prussia was now (1866) mother of three sons

and two daughters. The youngest of these children, Prince Sigismund, was born in September, 1864, and lived only till June, 1866: the death of her baby boy adding greatly to the grief of the Princess at the unhappy war with Denmark, which arrayed members of the family in the opposing armies, and only ended with the cession of the duchies of Schleswig-Holstein to Austria and Prussia, who were soon themselves to enter upon that fearful and bloody struggle, which had been partly foreseen and dreaded by Prince Albert, as the probable result of the delay of Prussia to take the leading place in a consolidation of the German Empire. It was during these latter hostilities, when the husbands of both her daughters were on the battle-field, that the Queen's anxieties were kept keenly alive by the trying situation of the dear Princess Alice, who, with her customary courage and self-sacrifice, was devoting herself to the supervision of the hospitals at Darmstadt for the reception of the sick and wounded. Her two little girls were safe and happy with the Queen in England; but the princess was not in a condition safely to undergo the work that she had undertaken, or to witness the terrible spectacles presented by the maimed and wounded brought in after the engagements. It was on the 11th of July, only a few days after the horrible slaughter at Sadowa (or Königgratz), that she gave birth to another daughter, afterwards named Irene, in commemoration of peace having been restored, Austria having submitted to the Prussian arms.

Among those who most deeply sympathized with her was the dear sister in England, the Princess Helena, whose marriage had been appointed for the 5th of July, and on that day was celebrated, with much quiet splendour, at the private chapel at Windsor Castle.

In 1867 the opening of parliament by her Majesty in person was in some sense an earnest that her Majesty would continue occasionally to take part in public ceremonial duties, and on the 20th of May she attended at South Kensington to lay the foundation-stone of the Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences in presence of a brilliant assembly. The Queen was accompanied by the Princesses Louise and Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Prince Christian, and was received by the Lord-steward and the Lord-chamberlain, and her elder sons, who presented her with a bouquet. After affectionately saluting them, her Majesty, in reply to an address read by the Prince of Wales, said, less audibly than was usual with her: "It has been with a struggle that I have nerved myself to a compliance with the wish that I should take part in this day's ceremony, but I have been sustained by the thought that I should assist by my presence in promoting the accomplishment of his great designs to whose memory the gratitude and affection of the country are now rearing a noble monument, which I trust may yet look down on such a centre of institutions for the promotion of art and science as it was his fond wish to establish here." After the stone was laid and the Archbishop of Canterbury had offered up prayer, an orchestra and chorus performed "*L'Invocazione all' Armonia*," composed by the late Prince Consort, the solo parts being admirably sung by Signor Mario. The proceedings closed with the national anthem.

A visit from the Queen of Prussia occupied the attention of her Majesty in June, and in the following month the Sultan of Turkey arrived at Dover, where he was received by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Viceroy of Egypt, who was also on a visit to England. Some public state entertainments were given in his honour, and on the 17th of July he



and the Viceroy attended with her Majesty, on the royal yacht, at a great naval review at Spithead, returning in the evening to a superb entertainment given at the Guildhall of London.

In the following spring her Majesty was able to fulfil some public engagements, one of which was that of laying the foundation-stone of the new St. Thomas's Hospital, on the 13th of May, in the presence of a large number of peers and other distinguished persons and 5000 spectators. On the 20th, at a great Volunteer review in Windsor Park, her Majesty appeared accompanied by the Princess of Wales, Princess Christian, and Princess Louise, the Prince of Wales and Prince Arthur riding with the carriage.

Public attention had for some time been excited by the progress of a force sent out to compel the King of Abyssinia to liberate the British consul, some missionaries, and several other Europeans and their wives, whom he had for a long time cruelly treated and kept in prison in defiance of promises and obligations. His stronghold, a rocky fastness in the desert country and a long distance from the sea-coast and the base of our supplies, was soon stormed, and he committed suicide rather than be taken prisoner. This little war was an expensive one, costing some eight millions; but it was regarded with much complacency because of the scientific appliances that were used, the skill with which the movements were effected, and the accuracy with which the results were accomplished.

In the brief but gracious and sympathetic speech delivered by the Queen on the occasion of her laying the foundation-stone at St. Thomas's Hospital her Majesty had said, in answer to a part of the address: "I thank you for the loyal and sympathizing expression of your feelings at the late attempt to take away the life of my dear son the Duke of Edinburgh, and join in your

prayers that the same good Providence which preserved him from the assassin will soon restore him in health and safety to his family and country."

Immediately after the laying of the first stone of the Royal Albert Hall the Duke of Edinburgh had left London to join his ship the *Galatea* on a voyage to the Australian colonies. He visited several places in New South Wales, where he met with an enthusiastic reception, and on the 12th of March was at Sydney, where he had agreed to attend a picnic at a place called Clontarf, advantage being taken of the occasion to raise subscriptions for establishing a sailors' home. Soon after his arrival, and in view of a large number of people, the prince was standing talking to Sir William Manning, when a man was seen deliberately to fire at his royal highness with a revolver. The ball struck the prince in the back. He fell forward on hands and knees, exclaiming that his back was broken. Sir William made a dash at the assassin, and, stooping to avoid the pistol, which was again levelled, lost his footing and fell. The second charge did not explode, the third entered the ground, the assassin being seized by a Mr. Vial and his arms pinioned. The Duke of Edinburgh was conveyed to his tent, and it was then found that the bullet had traversed the curved ribs to the front of the body and lodged immediately below the surface, no vital part having been injured. There was much loss of blood and prostration, but the prince did not lose consciousness, and sent a message to the anxious crowd outside that he was not much hurt. As soon as possible he was carried in a litter to his barge and conveyed on board ship. The man who made the attempt was with some difficulty removed to prison, as the crowd were inclined to inflict summary vengeance upon him. He gave his name as Henry James O'Farrell, and at first represented that he was one of

several Fenian emissaries in the colony who had drawn lots which of them should take the life of the prince. He afterwards contradicted this, however, and after strict inquiry no corroboration of the statement was obtained. Though the prince, as soon as he had recovered sufficiently, personally interceded with the governor for a commutation of the capital sentence, it was thought that in such a case clemency would have a bad effect and O'Farrell was executed. The prince progressed favourably, but as it was thought that his complete recovery was retarded by the climate, he returned home in the *Galatea*, after receiving the warmest manifestations of loyalty from the colonists, who regarded with horror the attempt made upon his life.

The Queen was still suffering from much weakness and depression, and in July it was arranged that a thorough change of air and scene should be sought in Switzerland, whither her Majesty went incognito as Countess of Kent, accompanied by Prince Leopold and the Princesses Louise and Beatrice. On her return to England her Majesty resumed those public duties which she distinguished from public recreations or amusements, and consented to appear in semi-state for the purpose of opening the newly-completed Blackfriars Bridge and the fine viaduct which had been constructed over the Holborn Valley to make one great level thoroughfare from the city to the west end of London.

Attired in deep mourning, and accompanied by her younger daughters and Prince Leopold, her Majesty drove in an open carriage across the bridge, where she was received by the civic authorities, who presented an address and received a written reply. The same ceremonial drive of the royal party and suite and the civic authorities marked the opening of the Viaduct. The streets throughout the route taken by her Majesty were

filled by a respectful crowd, whose loyal acclamations were mingled with looks and words of sympathy.

The Princess of Wales, who in 1867, after the birth of her third child, the Princess Louise, had suffered from acute rheumatism, had recovered, much to the relief of the public anxiety. Another daughter, the Princess Victoria, had been born in July, 1868; and now in November, 1869, a third—the Princess Maud. The Prince and Princess had taken part in many public duties and engagements, had visited Ireland, where they received a warm and loyal welcome; and had laid the foundation-stone of the new university buildings in Glasgow, where they also had a magnificent reception.

In the autumn of 1867 they repeated the tour in the East formerly made by the Prince.

The year 1870 was in England distinguished for the wide legislative measure which provided for public elementary education of the children in England and Wales; and it was a significant coincidence that one of the earliest ceremonies celebrated by the Queen was the opening of the new buildings of the University of London in Burlington Gardens. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the address presented to her referred to the fact that it was in the year of her Majesty's accession to the throne that the university began its labours for the encouragement of a regular and liberal course of education among all denominations of the subjects of the crown.

The benchers of the Inner Temple were singularly honoured by the presence of the Princess Louise, who represented the Queen by opening their new banqueting hall on the 14th of May; and as her Majesty was unable personally to inaugurate the grand Thames Embankment, completed for traffic on the

12th of July, the Princess Louise accompanied the Prince of Wales, who represented her Majesty on the occasion.

During the comparatively quiet and usefully progressive course of events in this country, the world was startled by that tremendous conflict between France and Prussia which ended in the surrender of the Emperor Napoleon III., the capitulation of Paris, and the consolidation of the various North German States under William of Prussia as Emperor of Germany. The Empress Eugénie with her son had sought refuge in England, whither she was soon after followed by her husband, who thus, a second time, found an asylum in this country.

It was a sad experience for the Queen, whose friendship for the French imperial family had been, and continued to be, sincere; though she was both sorry and indignant at the blind and fatal policy which had thrust hostilities upon Germany, and had drawn upon France that trained and equipped army in which the husbands of two of our princesses held commands, and were exposed to the danger of wounds and death. Happily fears and anxieties for their safety were dissipated, and the Queen was able to enjoy the restful autumn holiday at Balmoral. Her Majesty and the members of the royal family were already aware that the Marquis of Lorne, then twenty-five years of age, had formed an attachment for the Princess Louise, and the Queen had not regarded with disfavour the hopes of the young lad whom she had first seen when, a little fair-haired child, he stood at the door as she went to visit his parents, the Duke and Duchess of Argyll. There was nothing in the Royal Marriage Act obtained by George the Third to prevent the union if the Queen approved it, and that she did approve it we have her own declaration, and though there was pain in the thought of losing her daughter, it was understood that the



London residence of the princess and her husband would be at the old palace at Kensington when they were not at the ancestral castle of the heirs of MacCallum More.

In the following year (1871) her Majesty, for the first time since the death of the Prince Consort, spent the anniversary of her wedding-day at Windsor, and on the 21st of March the marriage of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne was celebrated in the chapel, the bridegroom being supported by Earl Percy and Lord Ronald Gower, and the bride walking between the Queen and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg. In June the newly-wedded pair were able to visit the Princess Alice and her husband, now Grand-duke of Hesse, at Darmstadt.

The opening of the Royal Albert Hall, a week after the marriage of the Princess Louise, was the celebration of an enterprise in which her Majesty took personal interest, especially as the memorial to the Prince Consort was now nearly completed. A private visit paid to the ex-Emperor and Empress of the French at Chiselhurst was recognized by her Majesty as a distinct demand upon the sentiments of friendly regard which had been maintained in the prosperous days of the empire. It was now a trying duty, but one which never could be regretted, since the emperor, broken, vanquished, and dying of a disorder from which he had long suffered, only lived till the 9th of January, 1873.

The Princess Alice, with her husband and children, was in London in the autumn of 1871, and paid a short visit to Scotland in September. Her Majesty was then suffering so severely from an attack of rheumatic gout that her illness caused much anxiety; but she happily recovered her usual health, and was able to take care of her little grandchildren until they were sent to London, while the Prince and Princess Louise went to Sandringham to visit the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Near the end of November the Prince of Wales had but just returned from visiting Lord Londesborough at his house near Scarborough, where it was supposed that a defect in the sanitary arrangements had brought on an attack of low or typhoid fever, with which some of the visitors were affected. On his return home the Prince showed symptoms of serious illness; and the Queen, who had returned to Windsor, went to Sandringham and remained for a few days until the patient appeared to be progressing favourably.

This was early in December, and the Prince was left in loving and competent hands, for not only the Princess of Wales, but the Princess Alice was there to minister to him with all her devoted affection and valuable experience, the Duke of Edinburgh also remaining to be near his brother.

The death of the Earl of Chesterfield, who had been one of the visitors to Scarborough at the time that the Prince was there, and had been taken with the same disorder, added to the dread and anxiety of the royal family; and the Prince's groom, a young man who had been in attendance on his royal highness during his visit, was also down with typhoid fever, of which he died.<sup>1</sup>

There was an alarming relapse in the condition of the Prince on the 8th of December, and on the following day the Queen returned to Sandringham, where the members of the royal family assembled in silent sorrow and apprehension. The Princess of Wales was plunged in grief, but watched unremittingly at the bedside of her husband. The whole nation hung with anxious interest on the frequent bulletins that were issued. Every heart beat in sympathy with the beloved wife and mother; and

<sup>1</sup> A grave in the Sandringham churchyard is marked with a marble cross on which is inscribed the name of Charles Blagg (aged 20), and the words: "The one was taken and the other left."

a whole people seemed to be treading softly and speaking low, as though the shadow of the sick-room was over the country. A number of representatives of the daily papers were at Sandringham to telegraph frequent intelligence of the condition of the Prince to London and the chief towns of the kingdom. In churches, chapels, and places of assembly of every religious denomination, fervent prayers were offered for his recovery, and for the support of the Queen and the Princess under their affliction. On the 14th of December, the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort, popular sentiment was wrought to the highest pitch. The disease appeared to have reached a crisis, the Prince lay almost insensible, and there was a general foreboding; but the dreaded day passed; there had been a slight change for the better, the crisis had passed, and the relief of the public anxiety was seen in the renewed cheerfulness that pervaded society. On the 19th of December the Prince was slowly recovering, and the day after Christmas day her Majesty wrote an affecting letter addressed to her people, expressing her deep sense of the touching sympathy which had been manifested by the whole nation on behalf of herself and of her beloved son and his Princess.

On the 27th of February 1872, her Majesty, with the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Princess Beatrice, went from Buckingham Palace to St. Paul's Cathedral, where, with the rest of the royal family who were in England, the principal nobility of the realm, and a great assembly of 13,000 persons, they offered grateful thanks to God for His great mercy.

It had not at first been intended to make the occasion one of such marked public manifestation, but it soon became evident that the nation would join in the thanksgiving; and as the royal carriages passed through the decorated streets, thronged with

loyal crowds, who greeted the Queen and the recovered Prince and his Princess with acclamations and blessings, her Majesty's face for a time lost its mournful expression, and looked as though it had regained some of the happy brightness of an earlier time. The Princess looked joyful; the Prince, who was serious and greatly touched by the warmth of the affection manifested towards him, looked somewhat pale and older than when he had last appeared in public.

At Temple Bar the Lord Mayor and the civic dignitaries went through the usual formalities, and preceded the royal carriages to the cathedral, where the Prince of Wales entered, walking up the nave to the royal stall, with her Majesty the Queen, who had the Princess of Wales on the other side. The thanksgiving service was simple and affecting. A *Te Deum*—sung by a selected choir—a special prayer, a hymn written for the occasion, and an address by the Archbishop of Canterbury from the text: "Members one of another," taken from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans; the words of the anthem were from the 118th Psalm. On their return from the cathedral the royal party was again led by the Lord Mayor and aldermen to the civic boundary, and on reaching Buckingham Palace the Queen and the Prince of Wales appeared for a minute on the great balcony to acknowledge the enthusiastic greetings of the vast crowd there assembled. Her Majesty again issued a letter addressed to the nation to "express publicly her own personal and very deep sense of the reception she and her dear children met with on Tuesday, 27th February, from millions of her subjects on her way to and from St. Paul's."

In the summer the Queen was at Balmoral, whither she had gone to spend her birthday, and while there received the sad intelligence of the death of her valued friend and spiritual

adviser, Dr. Norman Macleod, whose failing health her Majesty had noticed some time before, when he was about to make a journey to India, and also on his return. But he had preached before the Queen and the royal household, and had dined at Balmoral on the 26th of May; and the loss to her Majesty was sudden and grievous.

Alas! there were other griefs which were to darken the ensuing months of that summer and autumn. After attending a great review at Aldershot in July, her Majesty prepared to revisit Edinburgh, and to stay at Holyrood Palace, where a suite of rooms had been prepared for her, for Prince Leopold, and for the Princess Beatrice.

On returning to Balmoral on the 23d of September tidings were received of the death of her Majesty's beloved sister, Princess Hohenlohe, who had long been in a feeble state of health, rendered still more precarious by grief for the death of her daughter, the Princess Feodore, in the previous spring. The death of her beloved sister was an irreparable loss to the Queen, and a domestic sorrow also marked the spring of the year by the death from an accident of the younger son of Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse. The dear little fellow, a bright and happy child who was not yet three years old, being left for a moment in his mother's bed-room, fell from a window in the ducal residence to a stone terrace below, and died of the injuries he sustained.

Another royal wedding had already been announced on the opening of parliament—that of the Duke of Edinburgh to the Grand-duchess Marie Alexandrovna, only daughter of the Emperor of Russia, who had paid a preliminary visit to her Majesty. The marriage took place at the Winter Palace, St. Petersburg, on the 23d of January, and was solemnized in



accordance with the ceremonies of the Greek and the Anglican church, the former by the metropolitan of St. Petersburg, assisted by his clergy, the latter by Dean Stanley (Dean of Westminster) in the Salle d'Alexander at the Imperial Palace.

The spectacle of the Greek celebration was very impressive, as a brilliant assembly was present, the Russian ladies wearing the national costume and the gentlemen full uniform, or robes and dresses of office. The Queen was represented by Lady Augusta Stanley and Viscount Sydney. The wedding-day was celebrated in London and the chief towns of Great Britain, especially in Edinburgh, where there was a general illumination and a great bonfire on Arthur's Seat. On the 12th of March the newly-wedded pair entered London in state in an open carriage drawn by six horses, and the Queen was seated with them. As they passed through the streets some snow fell, but this only added a significant and picturesque element to the vast welcome given by the multitude of people to the bride which their sailor prince had brought from the North, and to receive whom the Prince and Princess of Wales, with other royal brothers and sisters, were waiting at Buckingham Palace.





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